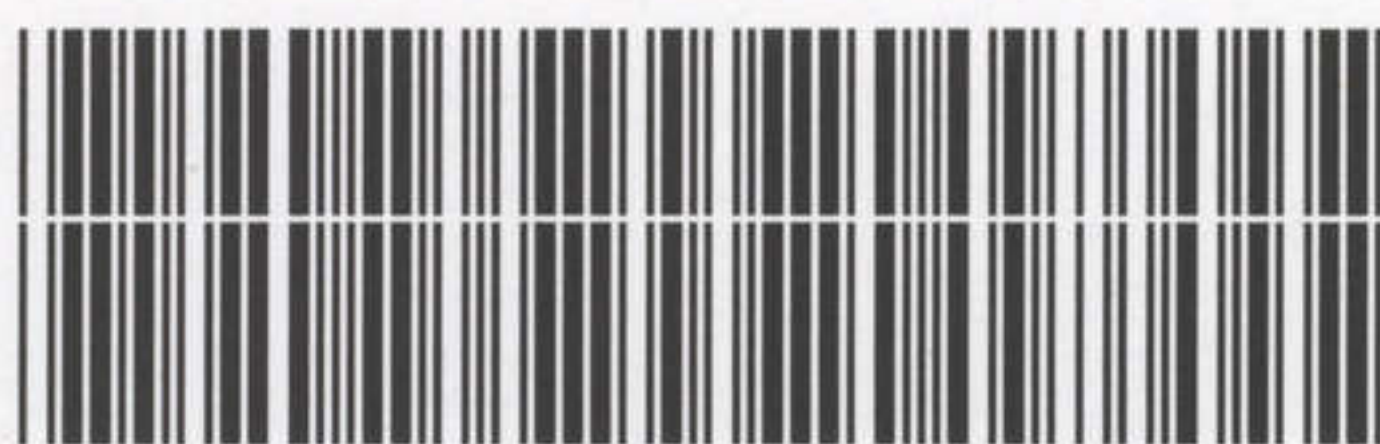


AWM78
**Reports of Proceedings,
HMA Ships and Establishments**

HMAS BATHURST

Item number: 59/2

Title: September 1943 - November 1945.
Duplicate



AWM78-59/2

AUSTRALIAN ARCHIVES
ACCESS STATUS

[59/2]
DUPLICATE

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS

H.M.A.S. BATHURST

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: D/S (N) Admin 18-13
Reviewer: LCDR R. L. Smith (RANEM)

Signature: R. Smith Date: 1 Nov 1990

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

(See file 72/51/50)
J. Bailey 29/11/66

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY.

MINUTE PAPER

SUBJECT:

H.M.A.S.

"Bellursh"

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS.

November 1945.

S.N.B. *18/12*

2 N.M. *18/12*

3 N.M. *21/12*

D. of P. *18/12*

D.R. *4/1*

D.N.I. (Later)

Ops. (N) *18/12*

N.5.

D.E. (N) *21/12*

D.O.T.M. *18/12*

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

H.A.B. *15/1*

N.A.2.N.M. *15/1*

N.5.

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

[Large handwritten signature]

12/12 *24/12* *16/12* *7/12*

17

10/10/14

[Faint, illegible handwriting throughout the page, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side. Some words like "Dear" and "Yours" are faintly visible.]

Commonwealth of Australia.

ACK. BY. A.S. 1338 Department of The Navy.

10 DEC 1945

INIT. **Royal Australian Navy.**

St 6339
DEPT. OF NAVY
Orig. 2026-7-1434.
SECRET

RESTRICTED

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45

From COMMANDING OFFICER HMAS BATHURST

Date DECEMBER 3rd Reference No. 205/45

To SECRETARY NAVAL BOARD

Subject REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS

Submitted:-

Herewith HMAS BATHURST'S report of proceedings for period 1st November to 30th November 1945 inclusive.

A summary of miles steamed, oil fuel consumed etc, is appended.

Copies have also been forwarded to SENIOR OFFICER 21st MINESWEEPING FLOTILLA.

AM.

.....Lieut Comdr (RANR)
Commanding Officer.

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LETTER OF PROCEEDINGS COMMENCING 1st NOVEMBER 1945

DUPLICATE

On 1st November Bathurst was on passage to Hong Kong, and arrived there at 0840i that day. HMS WAGER was observed on a parallel course at 0720i, in the vicinity of Lamong Light, and four Algerine class sweepers were passed in the Rathong Channel.

Bathurst departed Hong Kong at 1632i on November 2nd, after embarking mail and stores for the Flotilla, and one officer of the RN Film unit, Sub Lieut (SpBr) G L K Denyers RNVR.

Bathurst arrived SWATOW at 1005H 3rd November without further incident, and after discharging stores and mail to ships there, departed for Amoy at 1623H the same day, arriving there at 0742H on 4th November without further incident, and remained at anchor there during 5th November discharging stores and mails to the other sweepers.

Recommended sweeping operations with Flotilla on November 6th and although no mines were swept, on returning to harbour Ballarat set off either an acoustic or magnetic mines, which exploded close astern of her and ahead of Bathurst, next in line astern. Bathurst and remaining ships hauled out of line to avoid falling debris, and then stood by to assist Ballarat, who had suffered steering gear damage, but no other apparent defects, and no casualties. Other ships returned to anchorage at 1745H, and Ballarat was towed in and berthed by Bendigo.

At 0545H 7th November Flotilla, negative Ballarat, again proceeded to sweeping area in Formosa strait but no mines were swept, and ships returned to harbour, anchoring at 1740H same day. Sub Lieut (SpBr) G L K Denyers RNVR was discharged to Bendigo for return passage to Hong Kong having completed his duties in Amoy.

Flotilla remained in harbour until 0900H 11th November when all ships except Ballarat sailed for Hong Kong en route to Australia.

Bathurst and remainder of Flotilla arrived Hong Kong at 1100i 12 November without further incident, and remained there fuelling and storing until 0900i on November 15th when all units sailed for Morotai, Ballarat having arrived from Amoy on November 13th.

On arrival Hong Kong Flotilla Medical Officer was discharged to Resource but rejoined before sailing.

Whilst on passage several U.S Merchant ships were encountered on the Phillipine Islands coast, and some large traffic in the vicinity of Zamboanga on November 20th. On this date all ships transferred hand mail to and from Ballarat whilst under way at sea. Other than the above, passage was without incident, and flotilla arrived Morotai at 1504i on 22nd November. On arrival Morotai Flotilla Medical Officer was discharged to HMAS GILOLO for air passage to Hong Kong.

After embarking one Naval officer, 8 naval ratings, 3 AIF officers and 12 other ranks Bathurst sailed from Morotai in company with remainder of Flotilla at 1330i on November 23rd on passage to Thursday Island.

Passage was without incident until 0810i on 25th November when Fremantle and Burnie were detached to proceed to Darwin and other Australian ports.

At 2000i 26th November Toowoomba was detached to proceed to Darwin with urgent case of sickness on board and at 0945i November 27th Cairns was detached to proceed to Merauke. Clocks were advanced to "K" time at midnight November 27th.

Flotilla arrived Thursday Island at 1335K November 28th and in entering harbour Bathurst fouled Buoy moorings in starboard screw. Remainder of Flotilla sailed for Townsville at 1630K same day, but were later reported to be standing by the stranded US tanker "Pine Creek".

Toowoomba arrived Thursday Island 0610K on 29th. Work of clearing Bathurst screw was carried out by Port Diving Officer, but difficulty was experienced by divers with strong tidal streams, and work was not completed until 1530K on November 30th, when ship proceeded alongside for fuel, water and stores. Two Naval officers and 2 naval ratings were embarked for passage to Australia. No damage was suffered by Bathurst as a result of fouling of Buoy

RESTRICTED

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GENERAL

The health and morale of ships company continues to be satisfactory, although just after leaving the China Station two mild cases of venereal disease became apparent.

The main engines and boilers continue satisfactorily. At 30th November 899 hours had been steamed since last cleaning. The Southern Cross Diesel unit has been inoperative since 28th October owing to a leaking crankcase



RESTRICTED

SECRET

	<u>NOVEMBER</u>	<u>SINCE COMMISSIONING</u>
Mileage	3742.6	153351.65
Oil fuel consumed	360.5 tons	11441.97
Diesel " "	2.23 tons	126.41
Days in commission	30	1790
Days at sea	21	981
Average speed	10.2 knots	9.41
hours under way	364 10/60	16,826
Miles per ton fuel	12.8	12.83



CONFIDENTIAL

RESTRICTED
(See file 72/51/50)
J.B. Bailey 29/10/60
DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY.

2026/7/1434

9413

MINUTE PAPER



SUBJECT: H.M.A.S. "Bathurst" REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS.
October 1945.

S.N.E. 7/12

2 N.M. 12/11

3 N.M. 12/12

D. of P. 12/12

D.R.M. 12/11

D.N.I. (Later)

Ops. (N) 20/12

N.5. 12/12

D.E. (N) 12/11

D.O.T.M. 12/11

D.N.M.S. 12/11

H.P.B. 12/11

N.A.2.N.M. 12/11

N.5. 12/11

D.N.I. (N.H.R.O.) †

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8 JAN 1946

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Commonwealth of Australia.

Department of The Naby.

DEPT. OF NAVY
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Royal Australian Naby.

From COMMANDING OFFICER HMAS BATHURST

Date November 4th Reference No. 193/45

To SECRETARY NAVAL BOARD

Subject REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS

HM

Submitted;

Herewith HMAS BATHURST'S report of proceedings for period 1st October to 31st October 1945 inclusive.

A summary of miles steamed, oil fuel consumed etc, is appended.

Copies have also been forwarded to Senior officer 21st Minesweeping Flotilla.

.....Lieut Comdr (RANR)
Commanding Officer.

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DUPLICATE RESTRICTED

H.M.A.S. "BATHURST".

SECRET

LETTER OF PROCEEDINGS COMMENCING 1st OCTOBER 1945.

At 0700 item October 1st, Bathurst departed in company with Ballaret, Mildura, Castlemaine, Fremantle, Burnie, Toowoomba, Maryborough, Bendigo, Goulbourn for Mirs Bay to commence sweeping operations, arriving there at 1000 item same day and commencing sweeping at once. All sweeping carried out in "G" formation, Bathurst sweeping 4 mines, and anchored in Mirs Bay at 1904 item. Operations were continued on October, 2nd, and ^{one} mine swept by Bathurst, Flotilla anchoring at 1133 item owing to stress of weather.

Operations were continued on October 3rd, Bathurst sweeping 2 mines and again anchored Mirs Bay at 1550 item, that day.

On October 4th sweeping was continued in Mirs Bay, Bathurst sweeping one mine, and at 1445 item Flotilla, having cleared area, proceeded to Bias Bay and swept channel to anchorage, anchoring at 1814 item same day.

On 5th October flotilla commenced sweeping entrance to Bias Bay, Bathurst sweeping three mines, and at 1101 item flotilla ceased sweeping, and returned to Hong Kong, arriving there without further incident at 1544 item same day, and remaining there until October 10th when at 0700 item flotilla proceeded on passage to Amoy, arriving there without incident at 1200 How 11th October.

Sweeping of approaches commenced on October 12th and was carried on during October 13th but no mines were encountered, and Flotilla returned to anchorage off Amoy at 1335 How, remaining there until 0615 on October 15th when sweeping was recommenced, one mine being detonated in Goulburn's sweep. Flotilla anchored off Amoy at 1615 How same day. Remained there until 0640H on October 16th when sweeping was recommenced, and continued during the day without result, Flotilla returning to harbour at 1335H.

Sweeping carried out again from 0630H October 22nd, and continued throughout 23rd and 24th without result, Flotilla anchoring Amoy again at 1403H on 24th.

After remaining in Amoy 25th October sweeping again carried out during 26th October from 0630H to 1915H, remaining in harbour 27th and 28th October, sweeping was carried out again without result on 29th October from 0550H to 1800H.

At 0550H 30th October Bathurst weighed and proceeded on passage to Hong Kong via Swatow, arriving Swatow at 1725H same day, without further incident. At 1500H on 31st October Bathurst departed Swatow for Hong Kong.

GENERAL.

During sweeping operations outside Amoy and in Formosa Strait continuous bad weather has been encountered during the latter half of each day.

The health and morale of ship's company continues to be satisfactory, no venereal diseases or tropical diseases having occurred.

The condition of the hull is good. The machinery, and boilers have given no trouble except for a few minor defects.

A Medical Officer, Surgeon Lieutenant G. F. BAIN, RNVR was loaned from "RESOURCE" for duty with the Flotilla whilst away from Hong Kong. This Officer has been borne in Bathurst and has rendered valuable service to the Flotilla during its detached duty.



98 RESTRICTED
[Signature]
SECRET

	<u>OCTOBER</u>	<u>SINCE COMMISSIONING</u>
<u>MILEAGE</u>	<u>1606.7</u>	<u>154,609.05</u>
OIL FUEL CONSUMED	149.87 tons	11,081.47
DIESEL FUEL "	3.21 tons	124.18
DAYS IN COMMISSION	31	1760
DAYS AT SEA	18	960
AVERAGE SPEED	11.08	9.99
HOURS UNDERWAY	145	16,461 50/60
MILES PER TON FUEL	13.37	14.03

COMMANDING OFFICER
[Signature]
U. S. S. "BATHURST"

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NOV 1945

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY.

D.O.T.M.

MINUTE PAPER

2026/7/ 143H.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

(see file 72/51/50)

J. Bailey

RESTRICTED

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

September 1945.

S.N.B. 8/11

2 N.M. 24/11

3 N.M. 15/11

D. of P. 21/11

D.R. 22/11

D.N.I. (Latee)

Ops. (N) 23/11

N.F.

D.E. (N) 24/11

D.O.T.M. 30/11

D.N.M.S. 4/12

H.P.B. 6/12

N.A.2.N.M. 6/12

N.O. 10/12

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

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NAVY OFFICE

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26 OCT 1945
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Commonwealth of Australia.

Department of The Navy.

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Royal Australian Navy.

COMMANDING OFFICER HMAS BATHURST

RESTRICTED

From
Date..... October 3rd Reference No..... 163/45
To SECRETARY NAVAL BOARD
Subject..... REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS

Submitted:

Herewith HMAS BATHURST'S report of proceedings for period 1st September to 30th September 1945 inclusive.

A summary of miles steamed, oil fuel consumed etc, is appended.

Copies have also been forwarded to SENIOR OFFICER 21st MINESWEEPING FLOTILLA

A. Lewis
.....Lieut Comdr (RANR)
Commanding Officer.

29
107

H.M.A.S. BATHURST

DUPLICATED

LETTER OF PROCEEDINGS COMMENCING 1st SEPTEMBER 1945

~~SECRET~~

Note: All times are "item" unless otherwise stated.

On September 1st Bathurst remained at anchor off Tamkan Island awaiting shipping requiring to be led in to Hong Kong, and early a.m. was joined on station by H.M. submarine "Scotsman".

At 0757 on September 2nd weighed and proceeded to rendezvous at sea with HMS VENERABLE and embark party for work in Naval dockyard. Embarked party at 1045 and proceeded into harbour, Fremantle taking over duty at Tamkan Island. Whilst on passage a single Orepesa sweep was carried out along line of Dans from Able to Baker without result. A boom mooring buoy which had been reported adrift was sighted and towed into harbour. Anchored off Dockyard at 1925 same day and disembarked party, remaining there all next day and until 1845 on the 4th when Bathurst was ordered to Kowloon to assist to quell rioting and looting in Dockyard area. Armed parties landed and patrolled area allotted throughout the night.

During the night saboteurs cut adrift four motor oil lighters and these were recovered by Bathurst's motor boat and secured alongside Bathurst.

5th Sept
At 0900 an armed party from Bathurst entered and took possession of Cosmopolitan Dockyard and adjacent areas from Japanese garrison, and was relieved by R.A.F. contingent at 1945 same day. Bathurst illuminated the dockyard during the nights of 4th and 5th.

Slipped from APC company wharf at 1120 on the 6th September and returned to anchorage off Hong Kong, remaining there until 1545 on September 8th when Strahan was relieved on Green Island patrol. Bathurst remained on Green Island patrol until 0605 on 10th September when she was withdrawn and proceeded to sweep with double Orepesa a channel from Tathong light to Stanley Bay in preparation for embarkation and transfer of internees from Stanley Camp to Empress of Australia. Remained at anchor in Stanley Bay until 1747 same day when, having embarked 234 civilians internees Bathurst weighed and proceeded alongside Empress of Australia in Junk Bay to discharge same. On completion of disembarkation at 2030 anchored in Junk Bay.

At 0645 11th September weighed and proceeded into Hong Kong and anchored there until 0905 on 14th September, proceeding thence alongside dockyard wall for Boiler clean.

Boiler clean completed at 1700 19th September and at 0630 on 20th September slipped from dockyard and proceeded in company with Burnie Mildura, Castlemaine, Strahan, Fremantle, Bendigo and Launceston to sweep area in Tathong Channel. No mines were swept during the operation and ships anchored for night in Junk Bay at 1635. On September 21st weather was too bad for sweeping and ships returned to Hong Kong arriving and anchoring at 1517.

Bathurst remained at anchor until 0655 September 24th when proceeded in company with Maryborough and Goulburn to dump depthcharges at sea, returning to Hong Kong and anchoring at 1759. On return passage to Hong Kong H.M. ships Anson, Venerable and Indomitable and 5 destroyers were observed proceeding to sea.

At 0745 September 25th Bathurst proceeded in company with Ballarat Maryborough and Toowoomba to sweep Repulse Bay. At 1609 Bathurst returned to Hong Kong to embark gear for removing an obstruction encountered in Repulse Bay. At 1030 September 26th Bathurst returned to Repulse Bay and commenced raising of obstruction which consisting of an anchored boom composed of logs trung together with serrated sweep wire. About three quarters of boom had been raised and destroyed when Bathurst was recalled to Hong Kong arriving there at 1940 same day, remaining there until 1st October.

GENERAL

The health of the ships company continues to be excellent with no sign of any tropical disease. Morale and conduct are good, and there has been no sign of the tendency to "Ease Down" which might be reasonably expected to occur on cessation of a long period of hostilities.

The hull is in good condition, and main engines, boilers, auxilliary and upper deck machinery continues to be without fault.



	<u>SEPTEMBER</u>	<u>SINCE COMMISSIONING</u>
MILEAGE	442.9	153002.35
OIL FUEL CONSUMED	108.02	10931.60
DIESEL FUEL CONSUMED	2.5	120.97
DAYS IN COMMISSION	30	1729
DAYS AT SEA	10	942
AVERAGE SPEED	9.734	9.58
HOURS UNDERWAY	45 30/60	18316 50/60
MILES PER TON FUEL	11.17	14.03



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Commonwealth of Australia.

Department of The Navy.

RESTRICTED
(see file 72/51/56)
SECRET

Royal Australian Navy.

Commanding Officer HMAS BATHURST

From

Date **1st September** Reference No. **142/45**

To **NOIC MOLUCCAS**

Subject **REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS**

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Nav(A) 3.7.75
C.S.O.
S.O.O.
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C. C. B.
E. S. W. P.
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S. H. 2/10
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Submitted:

Herewith HMAS BATHURST'S report of proceedings for period 1st August to 31st August 1945 inclusive.

A summary of miles steamed, oil fuel consumed etc, is appended.

Copies have also been forwarded to Secretary Naval Board.

[Signature]

.....Lieut Comdr (RANR)
Commanding Officer

Duplicate

COMMANDER (D)
25 SEP 1945

RESTRICTED
~~SECRET~~ H.M.A.S. BATHURST

Letter of proceedings commencing 1st August 1945.

Bathurst departed Darwin at 0505IK on 1st August to search for Spitfire aircraft seen to crash in sea previous afternoon. After unsuccessful search Bathurst was recalled to Darwin arriving there at 0830IK on 2nd August and remaining there until 5th August.

Departed Darwin at 0630IK on 5th August in company with HMAS Katoomba(S/O) escorting US ship Augustine Heard (Convoy DML) on passage to Morotai. Whilst on passage passed HMAS BURDEKIN and one US Tanker in Clarence Strait and HMAS Moresby was observed carrying out hydrographic survey in vicinity Cape Don on August 5th and on August 8th one RAAF bearfort and four US Liberators circled convey. Identities were exchanged with HMAS GLENELG at 2030 IK same day.

At 1200I on August 9th Augustine Heard was detached for onward passage to Leyte and Katoomba and Bathurst arrived Morotai at 1630I same day without further incident.

Bathurst remained Morotai until 14th August, carrying out Guard duty at position Baker on 12th and 13th August.

At 1300 item on August 14th departed Morotai escorting SS Both on passage to Balik Papan. At 1700 i on August 16th Bathurst was diverted to Subic Bay via Samboanga arriving Zamboanga at 2030 item on 17th August.

HMAS Mildura and Fremantle arrived Samboanga 0800 item on the 18th and tanker not having arrived small quantity of fuel received from ship in harbour and all three ships departed at 2000 item same day, being joined at 2030 item by Broome. Whilst on passage to Subic Bay numerous convoys of L.S.T's were encountered.

All ships arrived Subic Bay at 1435 i 20th August and reported to Senior Officer 8th Submarine Flotilla in HMS MAIDSTONE, remaining Subic Bay until 24th August during the forenoon of which Bathurst and Mildura carried out M.S trials.

Again on 25th Mildura, Bathurst and Castlemaine exercised sweeping in formation with Fremantle and Strahah as Danlayers, returning to harbour on completion.

After a conference on board HMS INDOMITABLE on 26th, Bathurst sailed from Subic at 0600 i on 27th on passage to Hong Kong in company with all other A.M.S's ,Maidstone, Prince Robert and 8th submarine Flotilla.

On 28th Carrier and cruiser force(Indomitable,Venerable, Swiftsure,Euryalus and four destroyers)joined company.

On 29th squadron arrived off Tamkan island through 36 mile long channel swept by Mildura,Bathurst and Castlemaine and anchored in an area swept by Mildura Bathurst and Castlemaine, north of the island.

On 30th August, Bathurst and other sweepers swept channel into Hong Kong, and then Mildura and Bathurst accompanied Swiftsure, flying flag of Rear Admiral Harcourt RN, Euryalus. Prince Robert two destroyers and 2 submarines into Hong Kong harbour. During remainder of the day and night anti sabotage and anti suicide boat measures were carried out.

At 1330 I on August 31st Bathurst weighed and proceeded to Tamkan (Tamkan) island to await and lead in through Swept channel shipping proceeding into Hong Kong.

GENERAL

Health and morale of ships company continues satisfactorily, with a complete absence of any tropical disease. The conduct of the ships company is also most satisfactory.

The machinery and hull are both in a satisfactory condition.



	<u>AUGUST</u>	<u>SINCE COMMISSIONING</u>
Mileage	3472.2	152,559.45
Oil fuel consumed	273.67 tons	10,823.58
Diesel " "	2.17 tons	118.07
Days in commission	31	1699
Days at sea	21	932
Average speed	10.5	9.37
Hours under way	330 20/60	16271 20/60
miles per ton fuel	15.67	15.02



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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY.

~~SECRET~~

see file 72/51/50

J.B. Bailey

MINUTE PAPER

25 AUG 1945

SUBJECT: D.O.T.M.

H.M.A.S.

"Bathurst"

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS.

June, 1945.

S.N.B. m 28/7

2 N.M. 2/2/47

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~~D. of P.~~

~~D.R.M.~~

~~D.N.I.~~

~~Ops. (N) 20/8~~

~~N.S. 20/8~~

~~D.E. (N) 23/8~~

~~D.O.P.M. 27/8~~

~~D.N.M.S. m 28/8~~

~~H.P.E. 31/8~~

~~N.A. 2.N.M. 31/8~~

~~N.S. 3/9~~

~~D.N.I. (N.H.R.O.) 7~~

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BRANCH
D.N.M.S.
28 AUG 1941
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RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

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RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
MINUTES
DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

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RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
MINUTES
DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

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Royal Australian Navy. orig.

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IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE

No. N.G. 269/81.

Office of N.O.I.C.,
New Guinea, Madang,
10 July, 1945.

ADK BY: A.S. 13397
13 JUL 1945

The Secretary,
Naval Board,
MELBOURNE.

HM.

H.M.A.S. "BATHURST" - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS
JUNE 1945.

Submitted for the information of the Naval Board.

J. D. Davis
A/Captain, R.A.N.
Naval Officer in Charge,
New Guinea.

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H.M.A.S. BATHURST

RESTRICTED
SECRET

Letter of Proceedings commencing 1st June.

(All times quoted, unless otherwise indicated, "Item" i.e. zone minus 9)

At 1230 on 1st June departed from Sorido with Junee in company to carry out search for reported submarine. No results from search, only sightings being two U.S. Army ships and many large logs. Cootamundra joined search at 1600 on 2nd June and at 1650 on 2nd June Stawell joined. All ships returned Sorido arriving at 0955 June 3rd. Cootamundra and Junee proceeding to Mios Woendi for fuel. Kapunda guard ship at Biak.

At 0800 June 4th Bathurst assumed duty as guard ship Biak and Kapunda departed for Mios Woendi, Cootamundra and Junee arrived Biak at 1015 and at 1052 Bathurst sailed for Mios Woendi arriving at 1355, and fuelled.

Sailed from Mios Woendi at 0630 on 5th June and arrived Biak at 1140

At 1500 same day Cootamundra and Junee sailed to carry out further submarine search. At 1800 Stawell arrived from Mios Woendi.

At 0900 June 6th Stawell sailed for Morotai escorting two merchant ships, and at 0930 Kapunda arrived from Mios Woendi.

At about 1825 June 6th U.S. ship FS 529 went aground in entrance to Sorido lagoon. Bathurst placed a towline on board and at next high water ship was refloated and proceeded under her own power.

Bathurst returned to anchorage at 0630 on the 7th June and at 1900 Bunbury anchored off Sorido.

At 0600 on June 8th Bunbury sailed for Mios Woendi.

Departed Biak 1640 9th June with convoy of 24 L.S.T's escorted by Bathurst (S.O) Bowen and Kapunda.

At 0745 on June 10th identity exchanged with Wagga and Latrobe and U.S. Merchant ship Carol Lombard on opposite course.

During 11th June carried out quarterly reading of censorship regulations. Without further incident the convoy arrived Morotai at 1030 on June 12th. After fuelling and storing, anchored in position "Easy" and commenced boiler cleaning and minor main engine repairs and adjustments. During Boiler Clean Ordnance

inspection officer for New Guinea inspected all guns and mountings and Commander "D" staff carried out periodical Gunnery inspection.

Ships company exercised at Fire and Repair drill, gun drill and D/C thrower reloading drill. Boiler clean completed 17th June

and departed Morotai with Bowen in company at 1150 on 18th June arriving without incident at Mios Woendi at 1315 June 20th. Whilst on passage a night encounter exercise was carried out with Bowen.

Sailed from Mios Woendi at 0655 June 21st and arrived Biak at 1221 same day. Sailed from Sorido at 1705 22nd June escorting Dutch

Ship "Both" and arrived Morotai without incident at 0705 June 25th and proceeded as duty ship at position "Able" returning to berth "George" at 1435 next day.

Departed Morotai at 0715 June 23th for AA firings exercise and manouvres in company with Glenelg, Strahan, Bundaberg, Bowen Cowra returning at 1235 to position "George" During forenoon of June 30th fire and repair drill carried out for inspection by Squadron EO and Commander "D" and at 1245 proceeded to position "Baker" to relieve Bowen.

GENERAL- The health and morale of the ships company is considered to be good and continues to improve.

The machinery is in a satisfactory ~~is in a satisfactory~~ ~~condition~~ condition, but the hull requires scraping and painting below the waterline.



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	<u>JUNE</u>	<u>SINCE COMMISSIONING</u>
Mileage	2398.5	146,661.45
Oil fuel consumed	211.49 tons	10,283.44 tons
Diesel "	3.14 tons	114.14 tons
Days in commission	30	1637
Days at sea	18	899
Average speed	9.9	9.33
Hours under way	242	15,717.15





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14 JUL 1945
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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY.

MINUTE PAPER

~~SECRET~~

(see file 72/51/56)
Barley 29/11/60

SUBJECT: H.M.A.S. "Bathurst" REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS.
May 1945.

S.N.E.

2 N.M.

3 N.M.

D. of P.

D.R.M.

D.N.I.

Ops. (N)

N.S.

D.E. (N)

D.O.T.M.

D.N.M.S.

H.I.B.

N.A.S.M.

N.S.

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

Duplicate
Mrs. Brown

31/7
13E
A.A.

1/8

BRANCH
D.N.M.S.
20 JUL 1945
NAVY
OFFICE

D. H. Group

Commonwealth of Australia.

RECEIVED Department of The Navy.

15 JUN 1945

Royal Australian Navy.

NAVY CONFIDENTIAL COMMANDING OFFICER H.M.A.S. BATHURST

Original

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St 6339
lowb. 7.1188
SECRET

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RESTRICTED

From

Date JUNE 1st Reference No. 76/45.

To SECRETARY NAVAL BOARD

Subject REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS.

Submitted;-

Herewith H.M.A.S. Bathurst's Report of proceedings for period 1st May to 31st May 1945 inclusive.

A summary of miles steamed, oil fuel consumed etc, is appended.

[Handwritten Signature]

.....Acting Lieut Comdr RANR
Commanding Officer.

HN

[Handwritten mark]

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- 1st May. At Mios Woendi, anchored in position C. Boiler cleaning and minor engine repairs. Inspection of A/S and Radar Equipment. by Base Staff from Platypus.
- 2nd May At Mios Woendi. Boiler cleaning and minor engine repairs. General A/S repairs and maintenance V/S exercises carried out with other ships in port. 12 Pdr gun drill. Also all opportunities were taken for boatwork and landing of recreational parties during non working hours. Inspection of armament by Platypus Staff. 1100 cleared lower deck and read Articles of War
- 3rd May At Mios Woendi boiler cleaning. Platypus diving party cleaned screws. A/S inspection carried out by Platypus Staff. Exercised D/C thrower crews at reloading drill.
- 4th May Engineroom and machinery inspection by Platypus Staff and instruction of D/C crews and reloading drill for D/C thrower crews. 12 Pdr gun drill. V/S exercises with other ships. Exercised damage and Fire control parties. Echo sounding gear overhauled by maintenance staff. 1405 Clear lower Deck to read three warrants. 1500 weighed and proceed Biak. 1822 anchored off signal station Sorido. During dog watches instruction of ships company in use of pistols and Thompson sub machine guns.
- 5th May 1240 weighed and proceeded Mios Woendi. 1500 anchored in position C Mios Woendi.
- 6th May 0650 weighed and proceeded alongside Tanker Villa Lobos for oil fuel. 0940 completed fuelling and slipped from Tanker and proceeded with Bowen in company en route Biak Island. ~~1350 anchored~~ 1005 ordered to anchor close to Platypus, Bowen proceeded independently. 1050 weighed and proceeded to Biak Island. 1350 anchored in position 2A at Biak. 1400 attended convoy conference in P.D Biak's office. 1645 weighed and proceeded in company with Mildura(S/O) and Bowen to escort convoy BG 536 to Morotai. Dawn and dusk action stations exercise daily whilst on passage.
- 7th May During middle watch an extremely heavy tropical rain storm was encountered with visibility nil, but all convoy and escort maintained station. During dark hours LST 565 was detached by Commodore of Convoy for return to Biak. At dawn action stations carried out practice control run with guns crew to exercise T/S and communication numbers. Exercised D/C thrower crews at reloading drill.
- 8th May 0719 Bathurst was detached for return to Mios Woendi. At 0830 news of Germany's surrender was received. 1100 cleared lower deck for short address on German surrender and thanksgiving prayers. Carried out reloading drill with D/C throwers crews and at 1700 fired one five charge pattern with in dummy A/S attack in accordance with CCNO 122/44.
- 9th May 0917 exchanged identity with HMAS COOTAMUNDRA. 1130 hands piped down to celebrate VE day plus one. 1203 secured alongside Tanker Villa Lobos at Mios Woendi for oil fuel. 1347 slipped and proceeded 1417 anchored in position C at Mios Woendi.
- 10th May Exercised Fire and damage control parties. 1200 weighed and proceeded alongside Mombah for water and stores at 1210. 1353 slipped and proceeded Biak. 1554 passed Cootamundra on opposite course. 1639 anchored off signal station Sorido. Collected sailing and convoy orders from P.D's office and embarked four AIF officers for passage to Van Heuse. 1721 weighed and proceeded. 1735 transferred officers to Van Heuse and proceeded to take station ahead of convoy. 1800 convoy

of RESTRICTED

- May 10th BG 537 proceeded en route for Morotai. Dawn and dusk action stations exercised whilst on passage.
- May 11th 0310 HMAS Cootamundra joined convoy. 0445 obtained Radar contact and investigated same, ships were US army craft P 270 and one other in company. 0550 rejoined convoy. 1630 carried out D/C thrower reloading drill, exercised D/C party setting patterns. 12 Pdr guns crew to gundrill. Exercised sights setter, T/S and communication numbers.
- May 12th 1007 detached from convoy to proceed and investigate 7 surface craft appearing on port quarter. Ships were one U.S escort destroyer and 6 L.S.T's Senior Officer escort informed and rejoined convoy. 1630 Exercised damage and fire control parties.
- May 13th 0612 screened astern of convoy whilst ships entered Morotai harbour. 0740 anchored off Navy Dock. 0903 weighed and proceeded to take up stationary patrol at position B. 1002 anchored in position B at immediate notice.. 1630 carried out D/C thrower reloading drill.
- May 14th Carrying out stationary patrol in position B at Morotai. 12 Pdr gun drill. Nothing further to report.
- May 15th Carrying out duties of ready ship in stationary patrol at position B. Exercised control and communications numbers and sight setters for 12 Pdr gun. Exercised D/C throwers crews.
- May 16th Relieved on patrol at position B by HMAS Cowra at 0800. 0913 weighed and proceeded, anchoring close to Platypus at 0935. 1520 weighed and proceeded to anchorage off Navy Dock and collected convoy orders at 1615. 1705 weighed and proceeded in company with Stawell and Cootamundra as escort of convoy GB 760. 1800 exercised action stations, thence also at dawn and dusk throughout passage. 2145 obtained echo which was classified as doubtful, but possible submarine. S/O escort was informed, and attack carried out. Five charge pattern set to Depth setting D was dropped at 2159. Contact was ~~lost~~ regained and at 2221 a second 5 charge pattern was fired. Contact was lost at 2225 and after cruising in the area for approximately half an hour ship was ordered to rejoin convoy at 2250. My report of 17th May to Com(D) Platypus also refers. Standard report also forwarded to Rushcutter.
- May 17th 0250. Rejoined convoy and took up position S until daylight and then proceeded to position O at 0550. Exercise carried out during the day. Ammunition supply parties exercised, D/C thrower crews exercised in reloading drill, all communication numbers exercised, supply parties carried out drill of hoisting ammunition from magazine and shell room to upper deck, D/C's brought from lower storage, 12 Pdr gun crew to gun drill. 2359 HMAS Cootamundra detached for passage independently to Biak
- May 18th 1300 convoy dispersed and Bathurst then proceeded in company with Stawell en route Mios Woendi. During day D/C throwers crews exercised, and at 1700 Cerlikon and Bofors crews fired at star shell fired by Stawell.
- May 19th 0630 entered Mios Woendi lagoon and secured alongside Villa Lobos for oil at 0650. 0845 completed oiling having embarked 108 tons 0906 slipped from tanker and anchored off signal **STATION** at 0949. Carried out minor main engine repairs and embarked stores from shore and ammunition from PoYang.
- May 20th At anchor Mios Woendi. 0901 weighed and proceeded. Owing to sudden heavy rain squall anchored again close to PoYang. 0954 weighed and proceeded en route Sorido. Anchored off Signal

J RESTRICTED

- May 20th (Con.) Biak as Guard ship. Carried out 12 Pdr gun drill
- May 21st 0800 Stawell assumed duty ship Bathurst reverted four hours notice. Exercised Damage and Fire control parties and D/C throwers crews.
- May 22nd Exercised D/C throwers crews. Exercised action stations.
- May 23rd Embarked one Australian Naval Officer One AIF officer and 6 other ranks for passage to Morotai. 1736 weighed and proceeded in company with Stawell as escort to convoy BG 541. Dusk and dawn action stations exercised whilst on passage to Morotai.
- May 24th 0220 Cootamundra joined convoy as additional escort. 0925 gained an A/S contact in Lat 00 06' 30" S 134 04' 30" E. The contact was classified by the A/S officer, H.S.D. and an A/S officer borne for passage as a submarine. Senior officer escort was informed and attack carried out. A five charge pattern depth setting D was dropped at 0930, a second pattern on regaining contact at 0941, and a third at 0952. By this time Stawell had joined in hunt, but failed to obtain contact. Bathurst lost contact at dropping of last Pattern and failed to regain it. Bathurst and Stawell then carried out operation Observant without result. At 1040 Stawell left to rejoin convoy and Bathurst was ordered to continue search for 24 hours. Contact was not regained and all wreckage and floating matter was investigated without result. A square search was then commenced. At 2320 challenged and exchanged identities with HMAS Bunbury towing one A.S.R. boat. All armament was kept manned throughout the dark hours.
- May 25th Signal received informing me that Cowra, Townsville, and Stuart were proceeding to assist in search. Townsville unable to join owing to lack of fuel. Stuart failed to join. Cowra joined at 1230. At 1800 received instructions from Com(D) to abandon search if no further contacts made and return Woendi for fuel. At 1830 proceeded along convoy route to Sorido. Exercised 12 Pdr gun drill, ammunition ~~xxxx~~ supply numbers, and control and communication numbers during forenoon. Details of A/S attack were reported separately to Com(D) and Rushcutter.
- May 26th Proceeding to Woendi Cowra in company. Closed Biak and contacted Rockhampton, enquiring when Bathurst and Cowra would be required for duty (convoy), no reply forthcoming. 1730 Bathurst and Cowra secured alongside Villa Lobos and commenced oiling.
- May 27th 0632 slipped from Villa Lobos and proceeded to Woendi for fresh water securing alongside YW 84 at 0710. Whilst alongside PD Woendi requested passage to Morotai for two USN officers who were embarked at 0930. On completion of watering slipped and proceeded to Diesel fuel dolphins at Noesi island. Slipped and proceeded from dolphins and proceeded to Sorido and anchored there at 1628.
- May 28th 0840 Lieut Frame RANVR discharged for air passage to Morotai. 0845 Junee arrived and sailed for Woendi to fuel with orders to return on completion of fuelling. Exercised fire Damage Control parties. Exercised Action Stations.
- May 29th Exercised action stations and D/C thrower crews. 1400 Junee returned from Woendi and assumed duty ship at 1600. 1500 Cowra departed with one troopship en route Morotai.
- May 30th 1600 Assumed duty ship. Exercised AA guns crews and D/C thrower crews.

R RESTRICTED

31st May

0005 P.D. Biak requested Duty ship to proceed to investigate Radar contact in position 251 degs 18 miles from Sorido Signal station. Bathurst weighed at 0025 and proceeded on a search after ordering Junee to take over as duty ship. 0100 exchanged identity with PoYang and at 0115 with US Merchant ship John Sedgewick. Neither ship had any interference or sightings in the area to be searched. Continued search till daylight without result and returned Biak, anchoring at 0739 Reported details of search to PD Biak. Action stations closed up during search and D./C thrower crews exercised. Reassumed duty ship on arrival back at Biak until 1630

GENERAL REMARKS

W

The health of the ships company has been excellent during May except for a few cases of small cuts and abrasions which became slightly infected. There has been no signs of any tropical diseases.

General morale of the ship's company has very considerably improved since being in an operational area.



	<u>MAY</u>	<u>SINCE COMMISSIONING</u>
Mileage	2900.2	144,262.95
Oil fuel consumed	269.75 tons	10,071.95 tons
Diesel fuel "	2,88 tons	111 tons
Days in commission	31	1607
Days at Sea	21	881
Average speed	10.11	9.32
Hours under way	286.75	15,475.15



RECEIVED
27 MAR 1944
NAVY CONFIDENTIAL RECORDS

SECRET

DEPT. OF NAVY
2026-7.1089
SECRET

FROM : Commanding Officer, HMAS "BATHURST"
DATE : 1st February 1944.
TO : Secretary, Australian Commonwealth Navy Board.
(Through Captain A.B.C. Escort Force.)
SUBJECT : Report of Proceedings - January 1944.

(see file 72/51/50)
Bailey

Enclosed

Enclosed herewith report of proceedings
covering period 1st January 1944 to 31st January
1944.

ARABIAN-BENGAL-CEYLON
ESCORT FORCE
No. 468/15/4
Date 14/2/44

Chas. MacDonald Lieutenant.
RANR(S).

Minute II. over/.....

H.N.
29/35

~~SECRET~~

II.

No. 468/15/4.

The Secretary to the
Australian Commonwealth Navy Board,
Melbourne.

RESTRICTED

Forwarded.

Arabian-Bengal-Ceylon Escort Force,
Colombo.

15th February, 1944.

R. G. Schubert
CAPTAIN, R.N.R.

CAPTAIN
ARABIAN
BEN AL
CEYLON
ESCORT FORCE

ESCORT FORCE

Minute II. over.....

I. 1/44.

~~SECRET~~

RESTRICTED



FROM : Commanding Officer, HMAS "BATHURST".

DATE : 1st February 1944.

TO : Secretary, Australian Commonwealth Navy Board.
(Through CAPTAIN. A.B.C. Escort Force).

SUBJECT : Report of Proceedings - 1st January 1944 to 31st Jan. 1944

SUBMITTED: 1st Jan. to 3rs Jan. at sea, escorting Convoy JC31.
0300Z/3 handed over JC31 to relief escort and proceeded to Vizagapatam. 0530Z/3 entered Vizagapatam and refuelled.
0700Z/4, left Vizagapatam harbour. HMIS "Baroda" in company escorting three ships to rendezvous with CJ11. 0830Z, relieved HMIS "POONA" and proceeded escorting CJ11 consisting of 18 ships. 5th, at sea.
0300Z/6, detached two ships Madras rendezvous, 4 ships joined with HMIS "Bombay" additional escort. 7th 8th at sea.
0830Z/9, entered Colombo harbour and refuelled.
0815Z/10, proceeded out of Colombo harbour, HMIS "KHYBER" and "BARODA" in company, SO(E), in HMAS "BATHURST", escorting BM61, consisting of 18 ships. 11th at sea.
0230Z/12, detached HMIS "Khyber" with Aden portion of convoy. 13th, 14th, 15th, at sea.
0300Z/15, entered Bombay and proceeded alongside tanker "Alcides" and refuelled. 0745Z/15, fuelling completed, proceeded alongside Naval Breakwater RIN Dockyard and commenced to blow down boilers. 16th to 30th alongside boiler cleaning, renewing furnace brickwork, and re-aligning shaft to starboard engine.
0730Z/30, proceeded out of harbour for engine trials. Trials satisfactory, anchored in Naval anchorage.
0200Z/31, proceeded out of harbour with HMIS "JUMNA" and HMS "Shoreham" in company, SO(E) in "Jumna" escorting convoy BM84 consisting of 11 ships.

Condition of Ship : Maintenance continues with the same degree of care, both interior and exterior are free from corrosion and the ship is well painted.

Reference health and conduct of ship's company.

The general health for the period under review has been good. Conduct has been very good both ashore and afloat.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas Macdonald

Lieutenant.
RANR(S).

APPENDIX.

HMAS "BATHURST".
31st January 1944.

JANUARY 1944.

Mileage : 341.2. Fuel oil used: 213.217. tons.
Diesel oil : 1.59 tons.
Days in commission: 31. Days at sea : 17.
Average speed : 10.8 knots. Hours under weigh: $315.\frac{48}{60}$.

Since Commissioning.

Mileage : 111,064.3. Fuel oil used : 7517.27 tons.
Diesel oil: 85.371 tons.
Days in commission : 1151. Days at sea : 666.
Average speed : 9.49 knots. Hours under weigh: $11697.\frac{32}{60}$.

H.M.A.S. "BATHURST" - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS, DECEMBER, 1943.
(Commanding Officer, H.M.A.S. "Bathurst's" Report dated 1st January, 1944.)

II.

No. 125/15/4

Secretary to the Australian Commonwealth Naval Board,
Melbourne.

Forwarded.

Arabian-Bengal-Ceylon Escort Force,
Colombo.

12th January, 1944.

Sgd: R. G. THELWELL

CAPTAIN, R.N.R.

FROM : COMMANDING OFFICER, H.M.A.S. "BATHURST".
DATE : 1st. JANUARY, 1944.
TO : SECRETARY, AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH NAVY BOARD.
THROUGH Captain Arabian-Bengal-Ceylon Escort Force.
SUBJECT : REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS, 1st. DEC. to 31st. DECEMBER, 1943.

Submitted:-

1st. At Sea escorting Convoy B.76.
0900z/2 Entered Colombo Harbour and refuelled.
3rd.4th.5th. Colombo Harbour.
0230z/6 proceeded from Colombo and carried out A/S exercises
on M/L and Gourd Target. HMIS. "Baroda" in company. 1015z
returned to harbour.
0650z/7 proceeded out of Colombo Harbour in company with HMAS. "Ipswich" and
HMIS "Dipavati" carried out H/A and L/A shoot. Joined convoy No.MB.57
Senior Officer in "Ipswich"

8th. 9th. 10th. 11th. At Sea escorting MB57.
0522/12 Entered Bombay and refuelled on tanker "Easedale" 0950z
proceeded to Naval anchorage.
13th. In Naval Anchorage, Bombay.
0810z/14 Proceeded alongside Naval Breakwater for Boilercleaning.
15th.16th. 17th.18th.19th.20th. Boiler cleaning Bombay.
0630z/21 Escorting Convoy BM 79 consisting of 13 ships. HMIS "Khyber" and "Baroda"
in company. S.O.(E) in "Bathurst"
22nd.23rd.24th.25th.26th. At Sea.
1015z/26 Entered Colombo harbour and made fast on HMS. "Dabchick"
Refuelled and Stored.
0730z/27 proceeded out of harbour escorting JC.31 consisting of 11 ships
HMIS "Baroda" in company. S.O.(E) in "Bathurst".
28th.29th.30th.31st. At Sea.
0045z/30th. Detached one ship for Trincomalee 1 ship joined convoy.

CONDITION OF SHIP:- Maintenance continues with the same degree of care, both
interior and exterior are free from corrosion, and the ship is well painted.

REFERENCE HEALTH AND CONDUCT OF SHIP'S COMPANY.

The general health of the ship's company is for the period
under review has been good. Conduct has been very good both ashore and afloat.
The new ship's company have settled in quickly.

I view with concern the growing number of cases of "VD"
appearing amongst the ratings (8 cases for this month) Everything possible has
been done to check it. The entire Ship's Company have been addressed in every
port; Prophylactics issued gratis and the Ablution Chamber is available to them
night and day on return from ashore, with Sick Bay Attendant in attendance. I
believe they leave themselves open to infection through pure carelessness.

I have the Honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Sgd.) Chas. Mac Donald.

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

APPENDIX

FOR MONTH OF DECEMBER

SINCE COMMISSIONING

MILEAGE	4002.8	107652. 3
BOILER FUEL OIL TESTED	262.5 tons	7304. 143 tons
DIESEL OIL USED	1.64 "	83. 781 "
DAYS IN COMMISSION	31	1120
DAYS AT SEA	20	649
AVERAGE SPEED	10.076 14/	9. 45 44
HOURS UNDER WEIGH	397. 60	11381 /60

From..... Commanding Officer, H.M.A.S. "Bathurst".
 Date..... 1st October, 1943.
 To..... Flag Officer, Ceylon.
 Subject.... 'War Diary.'

1st September, 1943. At sea, bound Bombay to Colombo and escorting
 single ship viz: "British Fusilier".

2nd " " 0530/Z Lat. 10 52N. Long. 75 02E.

3rd " " 0350/Z In position Lat. 7 50N. Long. 77 05E.,
 S.S. "Islami" joined convoy.
 0530/Z Lat. 7 48N. Long. 77 15E.

4th " " 1150/Z S.S. "Islami" departed convoy off Colombo
 Searched Channel.
 0225/Z Entered Colombo harbour
 0240/Z Secured, both anchors down and stern to
 No. 18⁺ buoy.

5th " " "
 6th " " " Colombo harbour.
 7th " " "
 8th " " "
 9th " " " to 30th September, 1943 ship undergoing
 Dockyard Refit.

- Appendix. -

	<u>Total dist st.</u>	<u>Total st. time</u>	<u>AV. speed.</u>
Bombay to Colombo. 31/8/'43 to 4/9/'43.	873 miles.	9hrs. 09mins.	9.6 knots.



H. J. Donald
 Lieutenant R.A.N.R.(S).