

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

**HMAS CASTLEMAINE**

**Item number: 84/2**

**Title: February 1942 - October 1945. Duplicate**



AWM78-84/2



[8412]

DUPLICATE

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS

H.M.A.S. "CASTLEMAINE"

AUSTRALIAN ARCHIVES  
ACCESS STATUS

OPEN

Declassification Authority—Defence Records  
This record has been reviewed and has been  
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(Navy) with effect from: 1 Nov 1990  
Authority Dig (1) Admin 13-13.  
Reviewer: LCDR R. L. Smith (RANEM)

Signature: [Signature] Date: 1 Nov 90



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

(file 42/51/50)

Barley  
29/11/60

RESTRICTED

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY.

MINUTE PAPER

2026/7/ 1372

4614  
48A

SUBJECT:

H.M.A.S. "Castlemaine" REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS.  
October 1945.

S.N.B. 7/12

2 N.M. 21/12

3 N.M. 13/12

D. of P. 16/12

D.R.M.

D.N.I. (Late)

Ops. (N) 20/12

N.S.

D.E. (N) 21/12

D.O.T.M. 13/11

D.N.M.S. 11/11

H.P.E. 17/11

N.A.2.N.M. 21/11

N.S. 15/11

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

Duplicate

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12/12



8 JAN 1946



29/11

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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
MINUTE PAPER

2026/7/1372

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SUBJECT: *Stmas "Castlemaine," Report of Proceedings October 1945*

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ACK. BY A.S. 1320Y

26 NOV 1945

INIT

FROM: Commanding Officer, H.M.A.S. "CASTLEMAINE".

DATE: 7th November, 1945.

REF. NO. 3/146. *Aug*

TO: The Secretary, Naval Board, Navy Office, Melbourne.  
(Copy to N.O.I.C. "MOLUCCAS".)

SUBJECT: MONTHLY LETTER OF PROCEEDINGS- OCTOBER, 1945.

Submitted for the information and consideration of the Naval Board, forwarded herewith is the Monthly Letter of Proceedings for the month of October, 1945.

(1) At 0700, 1st October, 1945, "CASTLEMAINE" weighed and proceeded in company with H.M.A. Ships, "BALLARAT", "BURNIE", "MILDURA", "TOOWOOMBA", "GOULBURN", "MARYBOROUGH", "FREMANTLE", "BATHURST" and "BENDIGO", for Mirs Bay to carry out Minesweeping Operations.

(2) Ships arrived at Mirs Bay at 1100, 1st October, 1945, and Sweeping Operations commenced at 1115, 1st October, 1945, continuing until 1745, 1st October, 1945. During the day "CASTLEMAINE" sank 10 mines. At 1900 1st October, 1945, all ships anchored in Mirs Bay for the night.

(3) Owing to bad weather on 2nd October, 1945, ships remained at anchor.

(4) At 1225, 3rd October, 1945, weighed and proceeded in company with H.M.A. Ships "BALLARAT", "BURNIE", "BATHURST", "BENDIGO", "GOULBURN", "FREMANTLE", "TOOWOOMBA" and "MILDURA" to carry out further minesweeping operations in Mirs Bay. "CASTLEMAINE" acting as Dan-layer and Mine-destruction vessel. Sweeping Operations ceased at 1500, 3rd October, 1945, all ships anchoring at 1530, 3rd October, 1945, for the night. At 1600, 3rd October, 1945, it was reported that 5 tubes in the Starboard Boiler were leaking, and S.O. 21 M/S. Flot. was informed. "CASTLEMAINE" received orders to proceed independently to Hong Kong, A.M. 4th October, 1945.

(5) At 0700, 4th October, 1945, "CASTLEMAINE" weighed and proceeded to Hong Kong, securing alongside H.M.S. "KELANTAN" at Naval Dockyard 1505, 4th October, 1945.

(6) Ship remained alongside H.M.S. "KELANTAN", until 1205, 10th October, 1945, during which time repairs were effected and Minesweeping Stores transferred to the Naval Dockyard, when "CASTLEMAINE" slipped and proceeded to anchorage in Hong Kong harbour.

(7) Ship remained at anchor until, 0835, 13th October, 1945, when she weighed and proceeded alongside the tanker "WAVE GOVERNOR" for fuel. At 1115, 13th October, 1945, fuelling was completed and ship returned to anchorage.

(8) At 0840, 14th October, 1945, weighed and proceeded in company with H.M.A.S. "STRAHAN", for Australia via Moratai. Ships proceeded via Verde Island Passage, Phillipine Islands and Basilan Straits for Moratai, arriving at harbour entrance at 0920, 20th October, 1945.

(9) Both ships fuelled from the tanker "BRITISH UNITY", and on completion returned to anchorage remaining there until 1000, 23rd October, 1945, when both ships weighed and proceeded in company for Thursday Island via West of New Guinea.

(10) At 0730, 28th October, 1945, entered Thursday Island harbour and secured outside of "STRAHAN" at Main Jetty for fuel and water. At 1400, 28th October, 1945, completed with fuel and water slipped and proceeded to anchorage, remaining there until 0630, 29th October, 1945. At this time ship weighed and proceeded for Townsville taking H.M.A.S. "COONGOOOLA" in tow via inshore passage. This continued until 31st October, 1945, when "CASTLEMAINE" was still at sea proceeding south with tow.

ALL TIMES EXPRESSED ARE ZONE TIMES.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DEPT. OF NAVY  
2026-7-1372.  
SECRET

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27



continued.

GENERAL.

- (1) Maintenance and upkeep of the decks and ships side has been carried out as much as possible during the month in between operations.  
 (2) The health and behaviour of the Ship's Company remains good.

MONTHLY FIGURES.

HOURS UNDER WAY.	347
Distance run.	3904
Average miles per ton of fuel.	11.5 1
Fuel consumed.	339.11

FIGURES SINCE COMMISSIONING.

Total distance run.	115349
Total hours under way.	12084
Average.	9.54.

*M. J. O'Connell*  
 Lieutenant R.A.N.V.R.  
 Commanding Officer.



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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY.

MINUTE PAPER

2026/7/ 1372 89A

(See file 72/51/50)  
J Bailey 22/11/60

SUBJECT:

H.M.A.S.

"Castlemaine"

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS.

September 1945.

S.N.B. Mr 22/11

2 N.M. 22/12

3 N.M. 22/12

D. of P. 22/12

D.R. 22/12

D.N.I. (Later)

Ops. (N) 22/12

N.5. 22/12

D.E. (N) 22/12

D.O.T.M. 22/12

D.N.M.S. 22/12

H.B.B. 22/12

N.A.2.N.M. 22/12

N.5. 22/12

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

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21 DEC 1945

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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
MINUTE PAPER

2026/7/1372

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SUBJECT: Amad "Castlemaine," Report of Proceedings September 1945

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D.P.S. 11/11 8m

DTSR 14/11

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ISTNM 21/11

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ACK. BY. A.S. 1380V

5 NOV 1945

FROM: Commanding Officer, H.M.A.S. "CASTLEMAINE".

DATE: 6th October, 1945.

REF. NO. 3/141.

TO: The Secretary, Naval Board, Navy Office, Melbourne.  
(Copy to N.O.I.C. "MOLUCCAS".)

SUBJECT: MONTHLY LETTER OF PROCEEDINGS- SEPTEMBER, 1945.

Submitted for the information and consideration of the Naval Board, forwarded herewith is the Monthly Letter of Proceedings, for the month of September, 1945.

- (1) On the 1st September, 1945, H.M.A.S. "CASTLEMAINE" was anchored in Hong Kong harbour and opportunity was taken to paint ship.
- (2) At 1230, 3rd September, 1945, ship proceeded to Pinie Bay, Lamma Island, to destroy all Japanese Suicide Craft there. 120 of these craft were destroyed during the day, much to the delight of the local inhabitants, and "CASTLEMAINE", returned to harbour at Hong Kong and anchored at 2000, 3rd September, 1945.
- (3) On the 4th September, 1945, "CASTLEMAINE" was detailed to act as tug for the berthing of S.S. "EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA". This work was completed at 1425, 4th September, 1945, and ship returned to anchorage.
- (4) On 5th September, 1945, "CASTLEMAINE" fuelled and on the 6th September, 1945, proceeded to sea at 0750, for patrol (anti pirate), and for escorting incoming ships through searched channel. This work continued until 1930, 8th September, 1945, when "CASTLEMAINE" returned to harbour to commence boiler cleaning. Unfortunately no shore leave could be given during this period as things had not returned to normal on shore. During the time on patrol, "CASTLEMAINE" intercepted and brought into Hong Kong three junks loaded with Japanese. Also the Japanese garrison from Tathong Point was embarked.
- (5) Boiler cleaning was completed P.M. 13th September, 1945, and at 0910, 14th September, 1945, "CASTLEMAINE" in company with H.M.A. Ships, "BURNIE", "MILDURA" and "STRAHAN" proceeded to carry out clearing sweep off Tathong Point at approaches to Hong Kong. Three mines were swept up on the first lap and one mine exploded in "BURNIE"'s sweep. Sweeping was discontinued and upon all mines being destroyed ships anchored in Junk Bay overnight, resuming at 0700, the following morning, 15th September, 1945, and the whole area was cleared; a total of 23 mines being swept.
- (6) On 16th September, 1945, the signing of the surrender of Hong Kong took place at Government House; "CASTLEMAINE" being ably represented by myself. A fireworks and searchlight display was given by all Naval Ships that night.
- (7) At 0700, 17th September, 1945, "CASTLEMAINE" in company with H.M.A. Ships "BURNIE", "MILDURA", "BENDIGO" and "WHYALLA", proceeded outside into deep water to dump all depth charges prior to resuming sweeping operations, but owing to weather conditions sweeping was not commenced and all ships anchored in Junk Bay, at 1905, 17th September, 1945.
- (8) At 0720, 18th September, 1945, ships weighed and proceeded to carry out sweeping operations which terminated at 1045, 18th September, 1945, with negative results. All ships then carried out an A Sweep exercise returning to harbour at 1600, 18th September, 1945.
- (9) At 0715, 19th September, 1945, "CASTLEMAINE" proceeded to carry out a searching sweep from Hong Kong, through Kap Shui Mun to the entrance of the Canton river, prior to H.M. destroyer, "WAGER", proceeding through these waters the following day with Admiral Sir Bruce Fraser, C in C, British Pacific Fleet. This work was completed at approximately 1400, 19th September, 1945, when "CASTLEMAINE" returned to harbour and anchored.
- (10) At 0650, 20th September, 1945, "CASTLEMAINE" in company with H.M.A. Ships, "BURNIE", "MILDURA", "BATHURST", "BENDIGO", "FREMANTLE" and "STRAHAN" proceeded to carry out searching sweep of area outside boom returning to anchorage in Junk Bay at 1600, 20th September, 1945.
- (11) No sweeping was carried out on the 21st September, 1945, owing to unfavourable weather conditions and all ships returned to harbour at approximately 1500, 21st September, 1945. "CASTLEMAINE" fuelling from the tanker "WAVE GOVERNOR", before anchoring.
- (12) "CASTLEMAINE" remained in harbour until 0700, 24th September 1945, when in company with H.M.A. Ships, "BURNIE", "MILDURA", and "BENDIGO", proceeded to carry out a searching sweep off East Lamma Channel. At 1410, "CASTLEMAINE"'s sweep parted on a submerged object and float only was recovered.



continued.

(2).

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RESTRICTED

All ships anchoring in Stanley Bay for the night.

(13) At 0720, 25th September, 1945, ships proceeded to carry out further searching sweep in East Lamma Channel anchoring again in Stanley Bay. About 25 of the internees of Stanley Camp were entertained onboard that night by the Ship's Company. A good time was had by all.

(14) At 0700, 26th September, 1945, ships weighed and proceeded to carry out searching sweep of the entrance to Taitan Wan. An under water baffle was cleared.

(15) At 1515, 26th September, 1945, all ships were recalled to harbour and "CASTLEMAINE" anchored at 1715 that day. Remaining at anchor until the 30th September, 1945.. Shore leave was given during this time to one watch until 1900 each day.

ALL TIMES EXPRESSED ARE ZONE TIMES.

(1) Maintenance and upkeep of decks and ship's side has been carried out as much as possible during the month in between mine-sweeping operations.

(2) The health and behaviour of the Ship's Company remains good, although information was received that one rating admitted to sick bay, Moratal, on proceeding north was confirmed Pulmonary T.B. On receipt of this information the entire Ship's Company was medically examined and 14 suspects were X rayed. It was recommended that the remainder be X rayed as soon as possible or on return to Australia.

(3) During the first couple of weeks, the Ship's Company entertained several parties of P.O.W.s, and a considerable amount of Canteen Stock was distributed to them, by the Ship's Company, for which they were very grateful, as at that time no relief supplies had arrived.



(3)

MONTHLY FIGURES.

Hours underway.	97.5.
Distance run.	745
Average miles per ton of fuel	5.35
Fuel consumed.	139.4

TOTAL FIGURES SINCE COMMISSIONING.

Total Distance run.	111445
Total hours under way.	11737.
Average.	9.49.

CONFIDENTIAL  
J. Bailey 29/11/60  
RESTRICTED

*W. Ross*  
Lieutenant R.A.N.V.R.  
Commanding Officer.



RESTRICTED

COMMANDING OFFICER H.M.A.S. "CASTLEMAINE" LETTER NO. 3/143  
OF 6TH OCTOBER, 1945.

MONTHLY REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS - SEPTEMBER, 1945.

II

REF. M 14.3.1.57. 431

The Secretary,  
Naval Board,  
MELBOURNE. S.C.1.

Submitted for the information of  
the Naval Board.

(Sgd.) J. A. WALSH.

A/CAPTAIN, R.A.N.,  
NAVAL OFFICER-IN-CHARGE, MOLUCCAS.

Office of N.O.I.C.  
MOLUCCAS.  
18 November, 1945.

*Duplicate*



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Royal Australian Navy.

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE

No. \_\_\_\_\_

NOIC-MOLUCCAS FILE

M 1.4.3.1.57

CONFIDENTIAL  
RESTRICTED

FROM: Commanding Officer, H.M.A.S. "CASTLEMAINE".

DATE: 6th October, 1945.

REF. NO. 3/I43.

TO: Naval Officer in Charge, "MOLUCCAS", H.M.A.S. "PLATYPUS".

SUBJECT: MONTHLY LETTER OF PROCEEDINGS- SEPTEMBER, 1945.

Submitted:

Forwarded herewith in duplicate is the Report of Proceedings of H.M.A.S. "CASTLEMAINE", for the month of September, 1945.

NAVAL OFFICER IN CHARGE

9 NOV 1945

MOLUCCAS

*Capt. R. G. G. G.*  
*See on p. 1*  
*See on p. 1*  
Lieutenant R.A.N.V.R.  
Commanding Officer.

*See 5/10/45*  
*Letter, no comments.*



FROM: Commanding Officer, H.M.A.S. "CASTLEMAINE".

DATE: 6th October, 1945.

REF. NO. 3/141.

TO: The Secretary, Naval Board, Navy Office, Melbourne.  
(Copy to H.O.I.C. "MOLUCCAS".)

SUBJECT: MONTHLY LETTER OF PROCEEDINGS- SEPTEMBER, 1945.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
29/1/66

Submitted for the information and consideration of the Naval Board, forwarded herewith is the Monthly Letter of Proceedings, for the month of September, 1945.

- (1) On the 1st September, 1945, H.M.A.S. "CASTLEMAINE" was anchored in Hong Kong harbour and opportunity was taken to paint ship.
- (2) At 1230, 3rd September, 1945, ship proceeded to Pinie Bay, Lamma Island, to destroy all Japanese Suicide Craft there. 120 of these craft were destroyed during the day, much to the delight of the local inhabitants, and "CASTLEMAINE", returned to harbour at Hong Kong and anchored at 2000, 3rd September, 1945.
- (3) On the 4th September, 1945, "CASTLEMAINE" was detailed to act as tug for the berthing of S.S. "EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA". This work was completed at 1425, 4th September, 1945, and ship returned to anchorage.
- (4) On 5th September, 1945, "CASTLEMAINE" fuelled and on the 6th September, 1945, proceeded to sea at 0750, for patrol (anti pirate), and for escorting incoming ships through searched channel. This work continued until 1930, 8th September, 1945, when "CASTLEMAINE" returned to harbour to commence boiler cleaning. Unfortunately no shore leave could be given during this period as things had not returned to normal on shore. During the time on patrol, "CASTLEMAINE" intercepted and brought into Hong Kong three junks loaded with Japanese. Also the Japanese garrison from Tathong Point was embarked.
- (5) Boiler cleaning was completed P.M. 13th September, 1945, and at 0910, 14th September, 1945, "CASTLEMAINE" in company with H.M.A. Ships, "BURNIE", "MILDURA" and "STRAHAN" proceeded to carry out clearing sweep off Tathong Point at approaches to Hong Kong. Three mines were swept up on the first lap and one mine exploded in "BURNIE" 's sweep. Sweeping was discontinued and upon all mines being destroyed ships anchored in Junk Bay overnight, resuming at 0700, the following morning, 15th September, 1945, and the whole area was cleared; a total of 23 mines being swept.
- (6) On 16th September, 1945, the signing of the surrender of Hong Kong took place at Government House; "CASTLEMAINE" being ably represented by myself. A fireworks and searchlight display was given by all Naval Ships that night.
- (7) At 0700, 17th September, 1945, "CASTLEMAINE" in company with H.M.A. Ships "BURNIE", "MILDURA", "BENDIGO" and "WHYALLA", proceeded outside into deep water to dump all depth charges prior to resuming sweeping operations, but owing to weather conditions sweeping was not commenced and all ships anchored in Junk Bay, at 1905, 17th September, 1945.
- (8) At 0720, 18th September, 1945, ships weighed and proceeded to carry out sweeping operations which terminated at 1045, 18th September, 1945, with negative results. All ships then carried out an A Sweep exercise returning to harbour at 1600, 18th September, 1945.
- (9) At 0715, 19th September, 1945, "CASTLEMAINE" proceeded to carry out a searching sweep from Hong Kong, through Kap Shui Mun to the entrance of the Canton river, prior to H.M. destroyer, "WAGER", proceeding through these waters the following day with Admiral Sir Bruce Fraser, C in C, British Pacific Fleet. This work was completed at approximately 1400, 19th September, 1945, when "CASTLEMAINE" returned to harbour and anchored.
- (10) At 0650, 20th September, 1945, "CASTLEMAINE" in company with H.M.A. Ships, "BURNIE", "MILDURA", "BATHURST", "BENDIGO", "FREMANTLE" and "STRAHAN" proceeded to carry out searching sweep of area outside boom returning to anchorage in Junk Bay at 1600, 20th September, 1945.
- (11) No sweeping was carried out on the 21st September, 1945, owing to unfavourable weather conditions and all ships returned to harbour at approximately 1500, 21st September, 1945. "CASTLEMAINE" fuelling from the tanker "WAVE GOVERNOR", before anchoring.
- (12) "CASTLEMAINE" remained in harbour until 0700, 24th September 1945, when in company with H.M.A. Ships, "BURNIE", "MILDURA", and "BENDIGO", proceeded to carry out a searching sweep off East Lamma Channel. At 1410, "CASTLEMAINE" sweep parted on a submerged object and float only was recovered.



continued.

(2).

CONFIDENTIAL  
29/11/60  
RESTRICTED

All ships anchoring in Stanley Bay for the night.

(13) At 0720, 25th September, 1945, ships proceeded to carry out further searching sweep in East Lamma Channel anchoring again in Stanley Bay. About 25 of the internees of Stanley Camp were entertained onboard that night by the Ship's Company. A good time was had by all.

(14) At 0700, 26th September, 1945, ships weighed and proceeded to carry out searching sweep of the entrance to Taitan Wan. An under water baffle was cleared.

(15) At 1515, 26th September, 1945, all ships were recalled to harbour and "CASTLEMAINE" anchored at 1715 that day. Remaining at anchor until the 30th September, 1945. Shore leave was given during this time to one watch until 1900 each day.

ALL TIMES EXPRESSED ARE ZONE TIMES.

(1) Maintenance and upkeep of decks and ship's side has been carried out as much as possible during the month in between minesweeping operations.

(2) The health and behaviour of the Ship's Company remains good, although information was received that one rating admitted to sick bay, Moratal, on proceeding north was confirmed Pulmonary T.B. On receipt of this information the entire Ship's Company was medically examined and 14 suspects were X rayed. It was recommended that the remainder be X rayed as soon as possible or on return to Australia.

(3) During the first couple of weeks, the Ship's Company entertained several parties of P.O.W.s, and a considerable amount of Canteen Stock was distributed to them, by the Ship's Company, for which they were very grateful, as at that time no relief supplies had arrived.



(3)

MONTHLY FIGURES.

Hours underway.	97.5.
Distance run.	745
Average miles per ton of fuel	5.35
Fuel consumed.	139.4

TOTAL FIGURES SINCE COMMISSIONING.

Total Distance run.	111445
Total hours under way.	11737.
Average.	9.49.

*Mass*  
Lieutenant R.A.N.V.R.  
Commanding Officer.



16/10 19/11

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
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RESTRICTED

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY.

MINUTE PAPER

12 NOV 1945

D.O.

2026/7/1372

522B  
3812

SUBJECT:

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

August 1945.

S.N.B. 15/10

2 N.M. 22/10

3 N.M. 26/10

D. of P. 29/10

D.R.M. 30/10

D.N.I. 31/10

Ops. (N) 2/11

N.S. 2/11

D.E. (N) 5/11

D.O.T.M. 13/11

D.N.M.S. 15/11

H.P.B. 19/11

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

N.S. 22/11

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

15/10 21/11

Dup.  
Miss Kimch







27/9

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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY.  
MINUTE PAPER.

2026/7/1372

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SUBJECT: Amas "Castlemaine," Report of Proceedings August 1945

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DPS *Uu* 28/9

DTSR *Rolo*

DOS *9 11/10*

*11/10*

DENS

*ISTVM Rolo*

N5



DUPLICATE.

FROM: Commanding Officer, H.M.A.S. "CASTLEMAINE".

DATE: 2nd September, 1945.

REF. NO. 3/134.

TO: The Secretary, Naval Board, Navy Office, Melbourne. (Copy to N.O.I.C. "MOLUCCAS".)

SUBJECT: MONTHLY LETTER OF PROCEEDINGS- AUGUST, 1945.

Submitted for the information and consideration of the Naval Board, forwarded herewith is the Report of Proceedings of H.M.A.S. "CASTLEMAINE", for the month of August, 1945.

(2) On 31st July, 1945, H.M.A.S. "CASTLEMAINE" was engaged on surveying between Darwin and Thursday Island, which continued until 3rd August, 1945, when in company with H.M.A. Ships "BENALLA", "HORSHAM" and "ECHUCA", ship entered Thursday Island harbour and anchored after fuelling from alongside Jetty.

(3) At 0945, 4th August, 1945, ship proceeded in company with H.M.A. Ships "BENALLA", "HORSHAM" and "ECHUCA", to sea to carry out surveying duties. Surveying was continued until 2000, 6th August, 1945, when ships in company anchored in Popham Bay, and rendezvous with H.M.A.S. "MORESBY".

(4) At 0630, 7th August, 1945, H.M.A.S. "CASTLEMAINE", in company with H.M.A. Ships "MORESBY", "BENALLA", "HORSHAM" and "ECHUCA" weighed and proceeded to carry out surveying duties in Dundas Strait, which continued until 1615, 11th August, 1945, when H.M.A.S. "CASTLEMAINE" with H.M.A. Ships "BENALLA", "HORSHAM" and "ECHUCA" returned to Darwin arriving at 0712, 12th August, 1945, anchoring at 0740, 12th August, 1945.

(5) At 1500, 12th August, 1945, ship weighed and proceeded alongside Main Jetty for fuel and water, returning to the anchorage at 1815, 12th August, 1945.

(6) H.M.A.S. "CASTLEMAINE" remained in harbour until 0710, 14th August, 1945, when in company with H.M.A. Ships "BENALLA", "HORSHAM" and "ECHUCA", weighed and proceeded to sea on surveying duties between Darwin and Thursday Island.

(7) At 0200, 16th August, 1945, H.M.A.S. "CASTLEMAINE" was detached and proceeded to Moratai arriving at 1050, 19th August, 1945, and after fuelling and watering from alongside tanker "BISHOPDALL" and oil lighter "NOMBAL" respectively, anchored in harbour overnight.

(8) At 0620, 20th August, 1945, weighed and proceeded in company with H.M.A.S. Ships "WAGGA" and "STRAHAN" arriving at Subic Bay, Phillipine Islands, at 0700, 24th August, 1945. After fuelling H.M.A.S. "CASTLEMAINE" anchored and remained at Subic Bay, until 0605, 27th August, 1945, when in company with H.M.A. Ships "MILDURA", "BATHURST", "BROOME", "FREMANTLE" and "STRAHAN", and also H.M.S. "MAIDSTONE", H.M.C.S. "PRINCE ROBERT" and seven submarines, proceeded to sea.

(9) At 0600, 29th August, 1945, ships arrived off Tamkan Island, Hong Kong, and commenced sweeping operations, anchoring in Joss House Bay, Tamkan Island for the night.

(10) At 0620, 30th August, 1945, ships in company weighed and proceeded to sweep into the entrance to Hong Kong harbour. Sweeping ceased at 1100, 30th August, 1945, and all ships entered harbour, H.M.A.S. "CASTLEMAINE" anchoring at 1355, 30th August, 1945, remaining in harbour until 3rd September, 1945.

ALL TIMES EXPRESSED ARE ZONE TIME.

GENERAL.

(1) Maintenance and upkeep have been carried on as much as possible during the month under review. Working gear has received attention and decks sealed and painted.

(2) The health and behaviour of the Ship's Company remains good, although it is obvious that since the cessation of hostilities a certain amount of reaction has set in, and the feeling on the Mess Deck is mixed regarding our being sent north, as the ship has been in the tropics for fourteen months without leave.

HN

26  
9H



MONTHLY FIGURES.

Hours under way.	448.75
Distance run.	5043
Average miles per ton of fuel.	10.81
Fuel consumed.	466.1

TOTAL FIGURES SINCE COMMISSIONING.

Total distance run.	110700
Total hours under way.	11640
Average.	9.51

*Khoss*  
Lieutenant R.A.N.V.R.  
Commanding Officer.



25/4

2026/7/ 1372 430 A  
102 B

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY.

MINUTE PAPER

~~SECRET~~

(file 72/51/50)  
(Daily 29/11/50)

SUBJECT:

H.M.A.S.

"Castlemaine"

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS.

June, 1945.

~~S.N.E.~~ 23/7

~~2 N.M.~~ 22/7

~~3 N.M.~~

~~D. of P.~~ 27/8

~~D.R.M.~~

~~D.N.I.~~

NES 1/2/51  
N.H.R.O.

~~Cps. (N)~~ 21/8

~~N.S.~~ 2/8

~~D.E. (N)~~ 25/8

~~D.O.T.M.~~ 27/1

~~P.N.M.S.~~ 30/8

~~H.P.B.~~ 1/9

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

~~N.S.~~ 4/9

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

Duplicate

3/11

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4/9





19/7

4168

~~SECRET~~

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

2026/7/1372

~~RESTRICTED~~

MINUTE PAPER

~~19/7~~ SUBJECT: *Hmas "Castlemaine," Report of Proceedings June, 1945*

~~D.P.S~~ *File 19/7*

~~D.T.S.R~~ *20/7*

~~D.P.S~~ *21/7*

~~DCNS~~

~~ISTNM~~ *[Signature]*

~~19/5~~ *N5*



FROM: Commanding Officer, H.M.A.S. "CASTLEMAINE".

DATE: 7th July, 1945.

REF. NO. 3/120.

TO: The Secretary, Naval Board, Navy Office, Melbourne. (Copies to Naval Officer in Charge, Darwin, and Commanding Officer, H.M.A.S. "MORESBY".)

SUBJECT: MONTHLY LETTER OF PROCEEDINGS- JUNE, 1945.

RECEIVED

17 JUL 1945

NAVY CONFIDENTIAL

Submitted for the information and consideration of the Naval Board, forwarded herewith is the Report of Proceedings of H.M.A.S. "CASTLEMAINE", for the month of June, 1945.

- (1) Having parted company with H.M.A. Ships "WANNAMBOOL" and "PARKES" on the afternoon of 31st May, 1945, H.M.A.S. "CASTLEMAINE" and H.M.A.S. "INVERELL" proceeded to Cape Fourcroy, anchoring in the vicinity at 1709, 31st May, 1945.
- (2) At 0630, 1st June, 1945, H.M.A.S. "CASTLEMAINE" in company with H.M.A.S. "INVERELL" weighed and proceeded to a position west of Cape Fourcroy to carry out minesweeping operations. Senior Officer in H.M.A.S. "INVERELL". Arriving in position at approximately 0815, 1st June, 1945, both ships layed two Dan Buoys each, and H.M.A.S. "CASTLEMAINE" commenced sweeping at 0915, 1st June, 1945.
- (3) At 1805, 1st June, 1945, area had been fully swept with negative result, and both ships proceeded to recover Dan Buoys. At 1845, 1st June, 1945, all Dan Buoys recovered, and H.M.A. Ships "CASTLEMAINE" and "INVERELL" in company proceeded to a position South of Bathurst Island, for further minesweeping operations, anchoring at approximately 2156, 1st June, 1945, in vicinity of area to be swept.
- (4) At 0810, 2nd June, 1945, H.M.A.S. "CASTLEMAINE" weighed and at 0840, 2nd June, 1945, out sweeps, commencing operations at approximately 0855, 2nd June, 1945, sweeping throughout the day until 1830, 2nd June, 1945, when area was completed, and course set for Clarence Straits. H.M.A. Ships "CASTLEMAINE" and "INVERELL" anchored at Bill Shoal at 0030, 3rd June, 1945, both ships weighing at 0515, 3rd June, 1945, and proceeding to area off Cape Don, for further sweeping operations, which were commenced at 0930, 3rd June, 1945, and continued until 1645, 3rd June, 1945, when both ships proceeded to Trepan Bay, and anchored for the night.
- (5) At 0630, 4th June, 1945, ship weighed and returned to the sweeping area in company with H.M.A.S. "INVERELL". Sweeping commenced at 0810, 4th June, 1945, and was completed by 1200, 4th June, 1945, the entire area being fully covered. Results were disappointing although experience gained by Ship's Company was most beneficial.
- (6) Both ships returned to Darwin via Clarence Straits and H.M.A.S. "CASTLEMAINE" passed through the Boom at 2157, 4th June, 1945, and secured alongside Main Jetty at 2255, 4th June, 1945, for fuel and water.
- (7) At 0852, 5th June, 1945, H.M.A.S. "CASTLEMAINE" slipped from alongside and anchored in the harbour, remaining there until 0740, 6th June, 1945, when H.M.A.S. "CASTLEMAINE" in company with H.M.A.S. "INVERELL" proceeded to rendezvous with H.M.A. Ships "SHEPPARTON", "HORSHAM" and "ECHUCA", for H.A. Gunnery Practice. At 0937, 6th June, 1945, all ships were in station and practice commenced at 1000, 6th June, 1945, completing at 1110, 6th June, 1945. At 1117, 6th June, 1945, all ships returned to Darwin and H.M.A.S. "CASTLEMAINE" anchored in the harbour at 1355, 6th June, 1945. Boiler cleaning was commenced the following forenoon and completed at P.M. on 12th, June 1945.
- (8) At 0725, 13th June, 1945, ship weighed anchor and proceeded alongside Main Jetty to top up with fuel and water, slipping from alongside at 1310, 13th June, 1945, and anchoring in the harbour.
- (9) At 0620, 14th June, 1945, H.M.A.S. "CASTLEMAINE" weighed and proceeded in company with H.M.A. Ships "MORESBY", "HORSHAM" and "ECHUCA" to survey area. At 1805 ships anchored in vicinity of Marie Shoal Light Buoy.
- (10) At 0910, 15th June, 1945, H.M.A.S. "CASTLEMAINE" weighed and commenced surveying operations, which continued until 0930, 24th June, 1945, when H.M.A.S. "CASTLEMAINE" in company with H.M.A.S. "HORSHAM" returned to Darwin, arriving at the Boom at 2030, 24th June, 1945, and securing alongside Main Jetty at 2115, 24th June, 1945, for fuel and water. Fuelling was completed at 1105, 25th June, 1945, and ship proceeded to anchorage. Ship remained at anchor until 1825, 25th June, 1945, then weighing and proceeding to the survey grounds in company with H.M.A. Ships "HORSHAM" and "ECHUCA", arriving at 0745, 26th June, 1945, when surveying operations commenced.
- (11) At 1715, 29th June, 1945, survey operations were completed and all ships proceeded to Darwin, passing through the Boom at 0710, 30th June, 1945, and at 0740 30th June, 1945, H.M.A.S. "CASTLEMAINE" anchored in the harbour.

Copy Register



(2)

(12) 1020, 30th June, 1945, H.M.A.S. "CASTLEMAINE" weighed and proceeded alongside Oil Fuel Lighter. Completed fuelling at 1315, 30th June, 1945, and returned to anchor.

ALL TIMES EXPRESSED ARE ZONE TIMES.

GENERAL.

- (a) The health and behaviour of the Ship's Company remains good, and every opportunity during our short stays in harbour is availed of for sport.
  - (b) Maintenance and upkeep of decks and working gear has been carried out as much as possible during survey operations.
  - (c) General drills are carried out whilst on passage to and from survey grounds and whenever survey duties permit.
  - (d) During the Boiler Clean-ing period the following inspections were held on-board by base staffs, Gunnery, Medical, Victualling, Electrical and A/S.
-



MONTHLY FIGURES.

Hours under way.	239
Distance run.	2453
Average miles per ton of fuel.	9.4
Fuel consumed.	261.15

TOTAL FIGURES SINCE COMMISSIONING.

Total distance run.	102366
Total hours under way.	10900
Average.	9.39

*M. Ross*  
Lieutenant R.A.N.V.R.  
Commanding Officer.



24/7

(file 72/51/50)

4268

RESTRICTED

Bailey 29/11/60

2026/7/

1095

~~SECRET~~

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY.

MINUTE PAPER

SUBJECT:

H.M.A.S.

"Castlemaine"

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS.

April 1945

S.N.B.

2 N.M.

3 N.M.

D. of P.

D.R.M.

D.N.I.

Ops. (N)

N.S. Jm 12

D.E. (N)

D.O.T.M. 18/1/47

D.N.M.S.

H.P.B.

N.A. 2 N.M.

N.S. Jm 23

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

Duplicate

Mr. H. H. H.

25/1  
26/6

2/11





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26/4

310<sup>3</sup>

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RESTRICTED

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY.

MINUTE PAPER.

2026/7/1095

804.

~~16/4/45~~ SUBJECT: *HMAS "Castlemaine." Report of Proceedings April 1945.*

DPS *[Signature]* 26/5/45

DTSR *[Signature]* 29/5

DOD *[Signature]* 29/5

DENS

*ISTM* *[Signature]* 29/5

26/5/45. N5



29/4/60  
RESTRICTED  
FROM: Commanding Officer, H.M.A.S. "CASTLEMAINE".

DATE: 4th May, 1945.

REF. NO. 3/105.

TO: The Secretary, Naval Board, Melbourne. (Copies to N.O.I.C. Darwin, and Commanding Officer, H.M.A.S. "MORESBY".)

SUBJECT: MONTHLY LETTER OF PROCEEDINGS- APRIL, 1945.

Submitted:

(1) For the information and consideration of the Naval Board. Ship remained at anchor in Port Nelson until 1330, 2nd. April, and weighed and proceeded for West Bay in accordance with N.O.I.C. Darwin's orders.

(2) At 0948, 3rd. April, H.M.A.S. "CASTLEMAINE" anchored in West Bay and preparations were made to discharge distillate fuel to H.M.A.S. "HAWKE", as ordered. On receipt of a message from H.M.A.S. "HAWKE" stating that she had already fuelled, ship proceeded to Darwin to rendezvous with C.T.U. 70.5.3, arriving at 1030, 4th April. Fuel, water and stores were embarked, and at 0700 5th April, slipped and proceeded to rendezvous with H.M.A. Ships "BENALLA" and "BROOME", as required by C.T.U. 70.5.3, in vicinity of Penguin Shoal.

(3) At 0700, 6th April, commenced surveying operations as ordered by Senior Officer in H.M.A.S. "BENALLA", and continued same until 1346, 12th April, when ships proceeded to Darwin. Secured alongside at 1845, 13th. April, and commenced fuelling, watering and storing ship, and on completion at 0630, 14th April, slipped and proceeded to anchorage.

(4) Weighed and proceeded at 0700, 15th April, in company with H.M.A.S. "BENALLA", for survey ground in vicinity of Penguin Shoal. From 0800, 16th April until 1600, 24th April, ship carried out surveying operations, anchoring each night as convenient in the vicinity of the survey area. At 1600, 24th April, ships returned to Darwin.

(5) Anchored in Darwin at 1725, 25th April, and remained at anchor until 0720, 26th April, when H.M.A.S. "CASTLEMAINE" proceeded alongside and commenced fuelling and watering. On completion at 1345, 26th April proceeded to anchorage and remained at anchor until 1018, 28th April, when ship proceeded seawards to rendezvous with H.M.A. Ships "MORESBY" and "BROOME" in the vicinity of Cape Fourcroy.

(6) At 1600, 28th April established identity with H.M.A.S. "MORESBY" and proceeded to anchorage near Cape Fourcroy, anchoring at 1735 28th April, and remained there as ordered by Senior Officer in H.M.A.S. "MORESBY" until 1055, 29th April, when ship weighed and proceeded to rejoin H.M.A. Ships "MORESBY", "BROOME" and "HORSHAM" to carry out survey operations, which continued until 30th April.

ALL TIMES EXPRESSED ARE ZONE-TIME.

GENERAL.

- HN
- (1) Maintenance and upkeep have been carried on as much as possible during survey operations. Working gear has received attention and decks scaled and oiled.
  - (2) The conduct and discipline of the Ship's Company remains very good with morale of good standard. Every opportunity was given for recreational purposes during the month under review.
  - (3) The health of the Ship's Company still remains of a good standard. m
- 
- 24/5C



(2)

MONTHLY FIGURES:

Hours under way	280
Distance run	2969
Average miles per ton of fuel	10.66
Fuel consumed	295.55

FIGURES SINCE COMMISSIONING:

Total distance run	97040
Total hours under way.	10411
Average	9.32.

*P. J. Collins*  
Lieut-Comdr. R.A.N.R.(S)  
Commanding Officer.



3/4

~~SECRET~~

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY.  
MINUTE PAPER.

Original

2657

2026/7/1095.

14.

SUBJECT: *HMAS "Castlemaine," Report of Proceedings March 1945.*

D.P.S. *Wm 3/5*

RESTRICTED

D.T.S.R. *Wm 7/5*

D.O.D. *9 12 15*

DCNS

*for* *ISTANN* *14/5*

*14/5*

N5



4/6



245  
346 B

RESTRICTED

2026/7/ 1095.

(Feb 2/51/50)  
J Bailey

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY.

MINUTE PAPER

~~SECRET~~

SUBJECT:

H.M.A.S.

"Castlemaine"

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS.

March 1945.

S.N.B.

2 N.M.

3 N.M.

D.R.M.

D.N.I.

Ops. (N)

N.5.

D.E. (N)

D.O.T.M.

D.N.M.S.

H.

N.A.2.N.M.

N.5.

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

Duplicate

Mr. Hesser

EB

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19/6



Diagram



ACK. BY A.S. 1330Y

FROM:

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

- 1 MAY 1945

DATE:

10th April, 1945.

REF. NO. 3/97.

TO:

The Secretary, Naval Board, Melbourne. (Copies to N.O.I.C. Darwin, and Commanding Officer, H.M.A.S. "MORESBY".)

SUBJECT: MONTHLY LETTER OF PROCEEDINGS- MARCH, 1945.

Submitted:

For the information and consideration of the Naval Board, forwarded herewith is the report of proceedings of H.M.A.S. "CASTLEMAINE", for the month of March, 1945.

- (1) From 1st to 22nd March, 1945, H.M.A.S. "CASTLEMAINE" remained at Fremantle. Several minor defects were put in hand and general maintenance carried out. Main deck was chipped and scaled and anti-corrosive paint applied. Recreational leave was granted to as many of the Ship's Company as circumstances permitted.
- (2) At 1000 H on 22nd March, 1945, ship proceeded in accordance with instructions to rendezvous at Darwin with G.T.U. 70.5.3.
- (3) At 1700 H on 24th March, 1945, when in the vicinity of North-West Cape weather conditions were deteriorating rapidly with cyclonic indications. At 1725 H a cyclonic warning was received from N.O.I.C. Fremantle giving the storm centre in a position 50 miles North-East of North-West Cape and directly in the ship's track. Course was reversed and speed increased to 13½ knots. Cyclone warnings were received at regular intervals and permission was granted by N.O.I.C. Fremantle to return to Geraldton to re-fuel and await the clearing of the storm.
- (4) At 0730 H on 26th March, 1945, arrived at Geraldton and secured at Main Wharf. Ship completed with fuel, water and the stores available. On receipt of favourable weather report at 1100 H on 27th March, 1945, ship slipped and proceeded North.
- (5) Favourable weather was experienced until 30th March, 1945, when cyclonic conditions again became apparent. Ship's position at 1200 H on 30th March, 1945, by Dead Reckoning was 17 degrees 23 minutes South, 119 degrees 49 minutes East, sky heavily overcast, wind variable, swell developing from North-East and unsteady barometer. Course and speed were maintained and signal despatched requesting weather report for Northern Area. Cyclone warning was received indicating the storm centre in the vicinity of Melville Island. By 0600 H on 31st March, 1945, weather conditions had deteriorated and it was considered advisable to alter course for Port Nelson pending improved weather indications.
- (6) Ship arrived and anchored in Port Nelson at 1735 H on 31st March, 1945.

#### GENERAL.

- (1) Considerable improvement has been effected in the general upkeep of the ship. Decks are being scaled and gear overhauled and kept in good working order. Ship's side is receiving attention as circumstances permit.
- (2) The general behaviour of the Ship's Company remains very good, although there was a slight increase in defaulters during the vessels stay in Fremantle. This was considered a natural outcome of the change of environment. There were no serious offences.
- (3) Morale is of a high standard and the general health greatly improved by the spell in a Southern Port, where a better and more balanced diet could be provided.

H.N.

5/25/45  
H.N.



MONTHLY FIGURES.

Hours under way	194.
Distance run	2349.
Average miles per ton of fuel	16.9
Fuel consumed	139

TOTAL FIGURES SINCE COMMISSIONING.

Total distance run.	94071
Total hours under way	10131
Average speed.	9.28

*R. J. Collins*  
 Lieut.-Omdr. R.A.N.R.(S)  
 Commanding Officer.



22/6



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2026/7/ 1095

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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY.

MINUTE PAPER

file 72/51/50  
29/11/60

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SUBJECT: H.M.A.S. "Cockermouth" REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS.  
February 1945.

S.N.B.

2 N.M.

3 N.M.

D. of

D.R.M.

D.N.I.

Ops. (N)

N.S. July

D.E. (N)

D.O.T.M.

D.N.M.S.

H.B.

N.A.2.N.M.

N.S. July

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

17/11/45  
Lt Parker 25/1  
Mr Barker 28/1  
Mr Brown

24/5/4

30/4/4



44/3



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UNITED STATES

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

NAVY OFFICE



2/x

225<sup>th</sup>

~~SECRET~~

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY.  
MINUTE PAPER.

2026/7/1095

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~~1/1/4~~ SUBJECT: Hmas "Castlemaine," Report of Proceedings, February 1945.

RESTRICTED

D.P.S. *Rev* 12/4

D.T.S.R. *mm* 18/4  
↑

D.O.D.  
*per* 19/4

D.C.N.S.

~~1st NM~~ *R-04*

N.S.



FROM: Commanding Officer, H.M.A.S. "CASTLEMAINE".  
DATE: 7th March, 1945. REF. NO. 3/90.  
TO: The Secretary, Naval Board, Melbourne. (Copies to  
N.O.I.C. Darwin, and Commanding Officer H.M.A.S. "MORESEY".)  
SUBJECT: MONTHLY LETTER OF PROCEEDINGS - FEBRUARY, 1945.

For the information and consideration of the Naval Board, forwarded herewith is the report of proceedings of H.M.A.S. "CASTLEMAINE", for the month of February, 1945.

- (1) On 1st February, 1945, H.M.A.S. "CASTLEMAINE" was at anchor in Port Nelson under main steam owing to cyclone passing down Northwest Coast. Weather conditions gradually improved and ship proceeded at 2000 on 2nd February, 1945, with H.M.A.S. "BENALLA" (Senior Officer).
- (2) At 0800 on 3rd February, 1945, ships were in vicinity of Mchuca Shoal and the remains of the survey beacons, which suffered considerable damage in the storm, were recovered.
- (3) Returned to Port Nelson at 2000 on 3rd February, 1945, and remained there until 1315 on 4th February, 1945, when both ships left for Darwin being joined by H.M.A.S. "SLEUTH" at 1800.
- (4) Ships arrived at Darwin at 1800 on 6th February, 1945, and H.M.A.S. "CASTLEMAINE" embarked fuel, water and stores.
- (5) At 1700 on 7th February, 1945, weighed anchor and proceeded for Port Nelson to resume survey duties as ordered by H.M.A.S. "BENALLA", arriving there without incident at 1300 on 9th February, 1945.
- (6) From 1300 on 9th February, 1945, until 2000 on 13th February, 1945, carried out duties in company with H.M.A.S. "STELLA" as required by Senior Officer in H.M.A.S. "BENALLA". Before leaving Port Nelson H.M.A.S. "STELLA" was topped up with fuel and water.
- (7) Arrived in Darwin and secured at Boom Wharfe at 1800 on 15th February, 1945.
- (8) Completed with fuel, water and stores and left Darwin for Fremantle at 1500 on 16th February, 1945.
- (9) The passage to Fremantle was without incident and a diversion of route was made on the West Coast in accordance with orders received from N.O.I.C. Fremantle to search for two lifeboats presumed to be adrift in the area. No sightings were made and ship arrived at Fremantle at 0900 on 24th February, 1945.
- (10) At 1500 on 24th February, 1945, proceeded to Docking Slip. At 1617 ship secure on cradle. Work commenced on ships bottom and underwater fittings at 0800 on 25th February, 1945, and continued throughout until ship was completed and re-entered water at 1300 on 27th February, 1945. Secured at Naval Wharf and repairs put in hand.

ALL TIMES EXPRESSED ARE ZONE-TIME.

**GENERAL**

- (1) Maintenance and upkeep have been carried out as much as possible during the month of February, 1945. Working gear has received attention and decks scaled and oiled.
- (2) The conduct and discipline of the Ship's Company remains very good, with morale of good standard. Every opportunity was given for recreational leave while in Fremantle.
- (3) There was a marked improvement in the health of the Ship's Company towards the end of February, 1945, due to Fresh Provisions being available.



(2)

**MONTHLY FIGURES:**

Hours under way	342
Distance run	3,545
Average miles per ton of fuel	14.18
Fuel consumed	250

**TOTAL FIGURES SINCE COMMISSIONING:**

Total distance run	91,722
Total hours under way	9,937
Average speed	9.23

*P. G. Collins*

Lieut-Comdr. R.A.N.R.(S).  
Commanding Officer.



27/3

198<sup>B</sup>

RESTRICTED



file 29/11/60

~~SECRET~~

2026/7/ 1095

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

MINUTE PAPER

SUBJECT: H.M.A.S. "Castlemaine" -REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS.

January 1945

S.N.B.

2.N.M.

3 N.M.

D. of P.

D.R.M.

D.N.I.

Ops (N)

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H.P.B.

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Duplicate



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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY.

JB 29/1/60 MINUTE PAPER.

2026/7/1095

SUBJECT: HMAS "Castlemaure," Report of Proceedings January 1945

D.P.S. New 20/2

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D.O.D. 23/2

D.C.N.S. 23/2

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N.S.



(3)

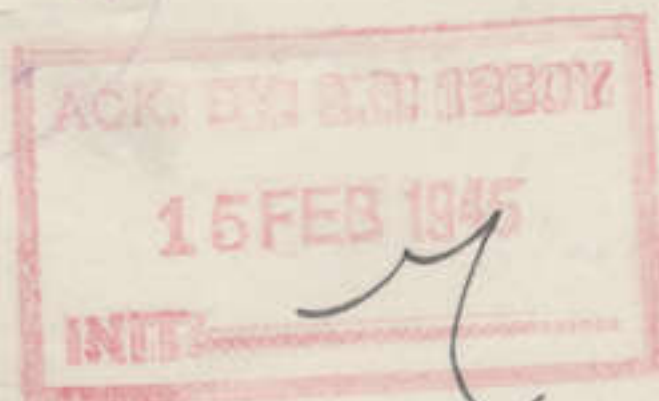


MONTHLY FIGURES:

Hours under way	230
Distance run	2496
Average miles per ton of fuel	9.42
Fuel consumed	265

TOTAL FIGURES SINCE COMMISSIONING

Total distance run	88177
Total hours under way	9595
Average	9.19



*P. G. Collins*

Lieut-Comdr. R.A.N.R.(S)  
Commanding Officer.

N.T.0600/53  
The Secretary,  
NAVAL BOARD.

II.

*JPB 29/11/60*  
**RESTRICTED**  
**CONFIDENTIAL**

HN  
Submitted for the information of the Naval Board in accordance with Navy Office letter 589/201/941 (053065) dated 23rd October 1944.

*BB Bolduan*  
A/CAPTAIN, R.A.N.  
Naval Officer-in-Charge, Darwin.

Naval Headquarters,  
DARWIN - N.T.  
9th February 1945.

*2/26*



Continued.

Water, fuel and stores were received onboard.

(11) On arrival ship was instructed to <sup>COMMENCE</sup> boiler-cleaning.

(12) At 1700 on 18th January, 1945 proceeded to anchorage. Boiler cleaning was commenced on 18th January, 1945 and completed P.M. 23rd. January, 1945. During this period recreational leave was given as exigencies permitted.

(13) At 1700 on 24th January, left Darwin with H.M.A.S. "SLUETH" in company for Port Nelson, arriving there, at 2000 on 26th January, 1945. Remained at anchor in Port Nelson until 2200 on 27th January, 1945, when ship proceeded in accordance with orders to rendezvous with H.M.A.S. "BENALLA" at Echuca Shoal at 0800, 28th January, 1945.

(14) On arrival at rendezvous, in heavy rain storms, and very threatening weather H.M.A.S. "BENALLA" could not be sighted, course was shaped for Browse Island, and H.M.A.S. "BENALLA" informed by W/T that pending further instructions H.M.A.S. "CASTLEMAINE" intended to return towards Port Nelson owing to cyclonic indications.

(15) At 0117 Z (1017G) of 28th signal was received from H.M.A.S. "BENALLA" with time of origin 271520Z (0020 I of 28th) to return to Port Nelson owing to weather deteriorating at Echuca Shoal. H.M.A.S. "CASTLEMAINE" rejoined H.M.A.S. "BENALLA" at Port Nelson at 1700G on 28th January, 1945, experiencing cyclonic conditions throughout. From 1700G of 28th, until the end of the month under review H.M.A.S. "CASTLEMAINE" remained weather-bound at Port Nelson, under main steam owing to cyclonic depressions to Northward.

ALL TIMES EXPRESSED ARE ZONE-TIME.GENERAL

- (1) Maintenance and upkeep have been carried on as much as possible during survey operations. Working gear has received attention and decks scaled and oiled.
- (2) The conduct and discipline of the Ship's Company remains very good with morale of good standard. Every opportunity was given for recreational purposes during the month under review.
- (3) There is no apparent change in the health of the Ship's Company, during the month of January, 1945 as compared with December, 1944.

12



FROM: Commanding Officer, H.M.A.S. "CASTLEMAINE".

DATE: 2nd. February, 1945. REF. NO. 3/76.

TO: The Secretary, Naval Board, Melbourne. (Copies to N.O.I.C. Darwin, and Commanding Officer, H.M.A.S. "MORESBY".)

SUBJECT: MONTHLY LETTER OF PROCEEDINGS- JANUARY, 1945.

Submitted:

For the information and consideration of the Naval Board, forwarded herewith is the report of proceedings of H.M.A.S. "CASTLEMAINE", for the month of January, 1945.

- (1) On the 1st. January, 1945, ship was engaged in survey work in shoal waters in North-Western approaches to Darwin.
- (2) At 1315, 1st. January, 1945, both sweeps were streamed to investigate suspected pinnacles. Sweep wire was veered to 300 fathoms on each side, with ten fathom float wire and 27 fathoms kite wire. Senior Officer boarded from H.M.A.S. "SHEPPARTON" to conduct survey operations. At 1420 both sweeps fouled the bottom and carried away. Work of recovering sweeps was continued until dark when the Starboard float and otter had been recovered. At daylight 2nd. January, 1945, work was recommenced and Port float, otter and sweep wire recovered. At 1152 orders were received to proceed to Darwin to effect repairs as necessary to sweeping gear.
- (3) New starboard sweep wire was obtained and existing port sweep wire spliced and re-wound on drum. Condemned starboard sweep wire was landed and new wire taken in-board, work proceeding continuously until 0400 on 4th January, 1945. Work was expedited by the co-operation of the Boom Defence Staff.
- (4) At 0600 on 4th January, 1945, left Darwin and proceeded towards survey area. During the afternoon sweeps were exercised and put into satisfactory working order by adjustments as necessary. At 2120 rejoined survey group consisting of H.M.A.Ships "SHEPPARTON" (Senior Officer), "HORSHAM" and "JUNEE". General survey work was continued until 1600 on 9th January, 1945, sweeps being used on 7th and 8th January. All Ships returned to Darwin at 1800 on 9th January, 1945. Fuel, water and stores were taken onboard.
- (5) At 1830 on 10th January, 1945 a short informal visit was paid to the ship by the Minister for the Navy, the Hon. N.J.O. Makin, during his tour of the Northern Operational areas. Ship's Company were mustered and an impromptu address given by the Minister, after which he viewed general living quarters.
- (6) At 0600 on 11th January, 1945, proceeded from Darwin with H.M.A.S. "SLEUTH" in company for calibration tests on sweeping gear. This was not successful as H.M.A.S. "SLEUTH" could not obtain E/S sounding on sweep wires. At 2330 orders were received from H.M.A.S. "MORESBY" to discontinue trials and proceed to Darwin and top up with Fuel and water.
- (7) Secured alongside Main Jetty at 0940 on 12th January, 1945, and cleared for sea at 1645 the same day to join H.M.A.S. "BENALLA" at Browse Island.
- (8) At 2110 on 13th January, 1945, being in position Latitude 13 degrees 10 minutes <sup>SOUTH</sup>, Longitude 123 degrees 37 minutes East course 244 degrees, speed 12 knots, small echo was obtained by Radar bearing 150 degrees, distant 8000 yards. Course was altered towards and ship went to "Action Stations". No reply was received to challenge made at 2012. Target was held in contact, closed to 6000 yards and illuminated by Starshell. Recognised as small motor craft and correct answer received. Identified as YP 286. H.M.A.S. "CASTLEMAINE" proceeded on original course at 2025.
- (9) At 1100 on 14th January, 1945, made rendezvous with H.M.A.S. "BENALLA" at Browse Island in accordance with orders. Remained at anchor to Southward of Browse Island until 0635 on 15th January, 1945. Weather conditions were deteriorating and ship dragged anchor. Remained in vicinity of Browse Island until 1200 when owing to threatening weather H.M.A.S. "CASTLEMAINE" was ordered to proceed to Port Nelson. Arrived Port Nelson at 2000. At 2240 orders were received to proceed forthwith to rendezvous with H.M.A.S. "SHEPPARTON" for A/S Patrol in Darwin approaches, six enemy craft having been reported by patrolling aircraft. Proceeded at 2256. Weather conditions were adverse, but course and speed were maintained. At 1600 on 16th January, 1945, received orders to rendezvous with H.M.A.S. "JUNEE" in position Latitude 12 degrees 57 minutes South, Longitude 126 degrees 23 minutes East. At 1825 H.M.A.S. "JUNEE" was sighted and ships commenced patrol in company as instructed by Senior Officer in H.M.A.S. "SHEPPARTON".
- (10) At 1200 on 17th January, 1945 orders were received to abandon hunt and proceed to Darwin for fuel arriving at 1940 at Boom Jetty.



RESTRICTED

(file 92/51/50)

~~SECRET~~

Barley 29/11/60



1405

2026/7/ 1095

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

MINUTE PAPER

SUBJECT: H.M.A.S. "Castlemaine" -REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS.

December 1944

S.N.B.

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D.R.M.

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N.5.

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

Lt Panton 28/2  
H.S. 3/3  
Lt Rankin 24/2  
File

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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY.  
MINUTE PAPER.

2026/7/1095

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30.4.

JB

SUBJECT: Amas "Castlemaine," Reports of Proceedings December 1944

~~D.P.S.~~ *Wm* 30/1

~~D.T.S.R.~~

*Wm* 1/2

~~D.O.D.~~

~~DCNS~~

~~ISTNM~~

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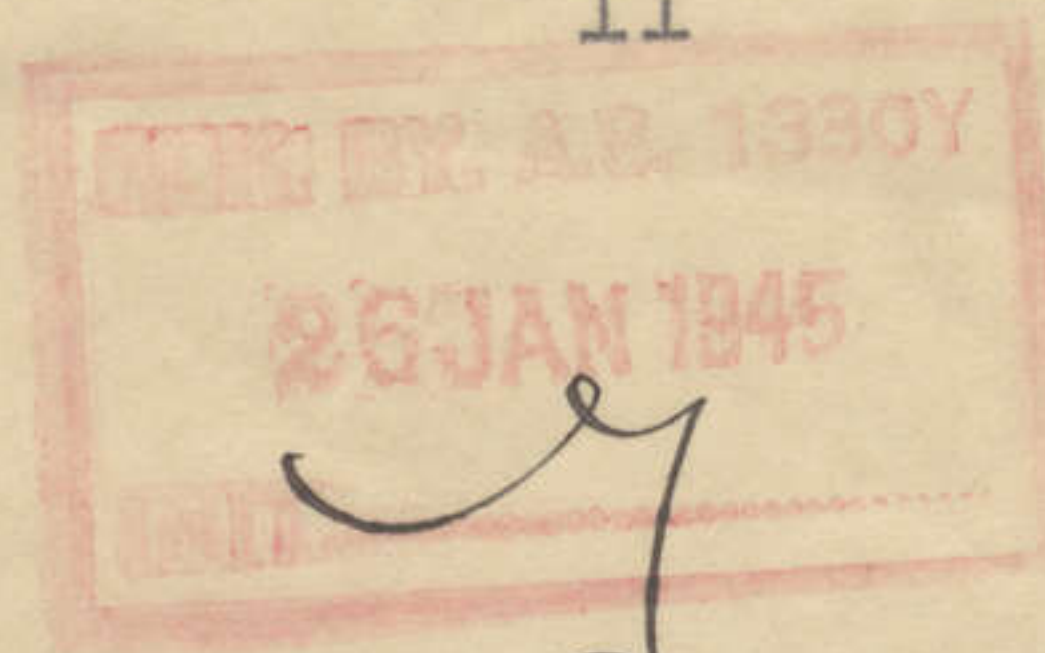
✓  
Commanding Officer, H.M.A.S. "CASTLEMAINE's" letter No. 3/69 dated  
10th January, 1945.

MONTHLY REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS- DECEMBER, 1944.

II

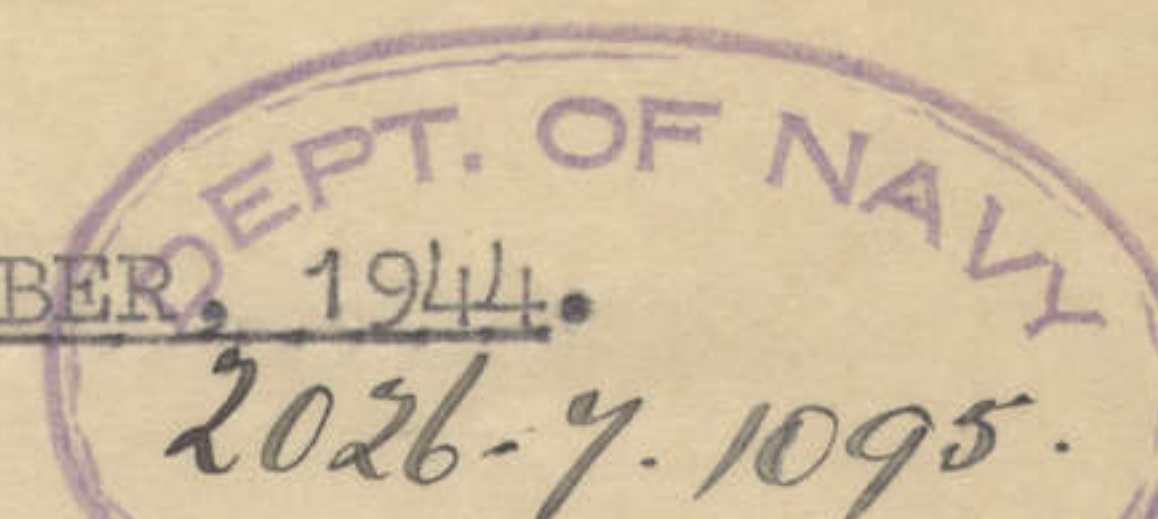
N.T.0600/53

The Secretary,  
NAVAL BOARD.



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~RESTRICTED~~



HP 25  
8  
43

HN  
Submitted for the information of the Naval Board in  
accordance with Navy Office Letter 589/201/941 (053065) dated  
23rd October, 1944.

*CC Baldwin*

A/CAPTAIN, R.A.N.  
Naval Officer-in-Charge, Darwin.

Naval Headquarters,  
Darwin. N.T.  
22nd January, 1945.



✓  
JB 22/11/60  
FROM: Commanding Officer, H.M.A.S. "CASTLEMAINE".

DATE: 10th January, 1945.

REF. NO. 3/69.

RESTRICTED

TO: The Secretary, Naval Board, Melbourne. (Copies to N.O.I.C. Darwin, and Commanding Officer, H.M.A.S. "MORESBY".)

SUBJECT: MONTHLY LETTER OF PROCEEDINGS- DECEMBER, 1944.

Submitted:

For the information and consideration of the Naval Board, forwarded herewith is the report of proceedings of H.M.A.S. "CASTLEMAINE", for the month of December, 1944.

- (1) On the 1st. December, 1944, ship was en route from Cassini Island to Darwin.
- (2) At 1030 on 2nd. December, 1944, commenced fuelling and took on water and stores before proceeding to anchorage at 1300.
- (3) From 2nd. December, 1944 to 8th December, 1944, remained at anchor at Darwin for boiler-cleaning. General maintenance and routine work carried on.
- (4) At 1745 on 8th December, 1944, proceeded with H.M.A.S. "MORESBY" and returned to survey area under operational orders of H.M.A.S. "MORESBY".
- (5) From 8th December, 1944, until 1815 on 18th December, 1944, vessel engaged in survey duties in the region of Bassett Smith Shoal, and North-West of Holothuria Bank. At 0615, 19th December, 1944, proceeded alongside H.M.A.S. "MORESBY", and took onboard 20 tons of oil fuel to replenish supply for proceeding to Darwin.
- (6) At 1800, on 19th December, 1944, parted company with H.M.A.S. "MORESBY", and proceeded to Darwin in company with H.M.A.S. "JUNEE". No unusual events during passage and berthed at Main Jetty, Darwin, at 0800, on 21st December, 1944. Took onboard oil fuel, water and stores and removed to anchorage. Remained at anchorage until 0730, on 27th. December, 1944.
- (7) At 0730, on 27th December, 1944, proceeded in company with H.M.A. Ships "SHEPPARTON", "HORSHAM" and "JUNEE", and recommenced survey duties in the North Western area of Darwin approaches, under the operational orders of H.M.A.S. "SHEPPARTON". These duties continued for the remainder of the month under review, work being carried on from first light until dark daily. During dark hours a general patrol was maintained in the area.

ALL TIMES EXPRESSED ARE ZONE-TIME.

GENERAL.

- (1) Maintenance and upkeep have been carried on as much as possible during survey operations. Working gear has received attention and decks scaled and oiled.
- (2) The conduct and discipline of the Ship's Company remains very good with morale of good standard. Every opportunity was given for recreational purposes during the Christmas Season.

(3) HEALTH.

There is no apparent change in the health of the Ship's Company, during the month of December, 1944, as compared with November, 1944.

29/1  
31/1 K




MONTHLY FIGURES.

Hours under way.	261.
Distance run	2763.
Average miles per ton of fuel	11.47
Fuel consumed	240.74

TOTAL FIGURES SINCE COMMISSIONING.

Total distance run	85681
Total hours under way	9365
Average	9.149

  
Lieut-Comdr. R.A.N.R.(S)  
Commanding Officer.



✓  
FROM: Commanding Officer, H.M.A.S. "CASTLEMAINE".

DATE: 8th December, 1944.

REF. NO. 3/58.

TO: The Secretary, Naval Board, Melbourne. (Copies to H.O.I.C. Darwin,  
Commanding Officer, H.M.A.S. "MORSEBY".)

ACK. BY. A.S. 1330Y

SUBJECT:

MONTHLY LETTER OF PROCEEDINGS- NOVEMBER, 1944.

INIT. *mbt*

Submitted:

For the information and consideration of the

Naval Board, the following report of proceedings of H.M.A.S. "CASTLEMAINE", for the month of November, 1944.

*HN*  
(1) From 1st to 3rd November, ship carried out survey duties in the Penguin Shoal area, under the direction of R.M.A.S. "SHEPPARTON". Work was continuous during daylight and moonlight.

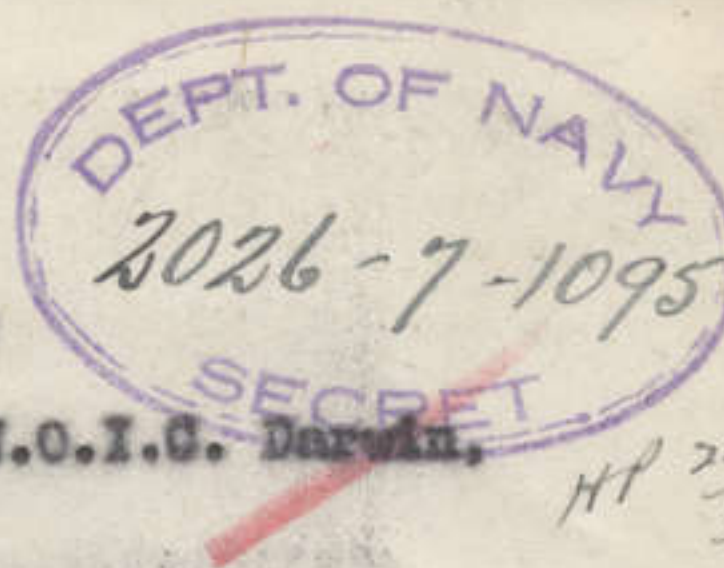
(2) At 0900 on 4th November, ship entered Darwin Harbour and completed with fuel, stores and water. Lieutenant G.S. Gordon, R.A.N. landed to proceed to his appointment to H.M.A.S. "VENDETTA", and Lieutenant F.B. Moss, R.A.N.V.R. assumed temporary command. At 2100 weighed anchor, and proceeded with H.M.A. Ships "SHEPPARTON", "HORSHAM" and "JUNEE".

(3) Surveying duties were recommenced at 0800, on the 6th November, in area to North-East of Penguin Shoal, and work proceeded during daylight and moonlight hours, until 1800 on the 12th November. During dark hours ships anchored or lay-to as convenient in the survey area. Return was made to Darwin, and the Harbour was entered at 1620, 13th November.

(4) At 0900, 13th November, Lieutenant-Commander P.G. Collins, R.A.N.R.(S) boarded and assumed command, Lieutenant F.B. Moss, R.A.N.V. reverting to Executive Officer. Fuel, water and stores were taken on-board at Main Jetty, and ship anchored in the Harbour at 1400.

(5) From 13th November, to 0700, on 16th November ship remained at anchor, and general maintenance was carried out.

(6) At 0700, 16th November proceeded in company with H.M.A. Ships "SHEPPARTON" and "JUNEE" to lay survey beacons to South and West of Cape Fourcroy. At 1530 "CASTLEMAINE" completed laying beacons and after evening stellar observations proceeded to rendezvous with "SHEPPARTON", and "JUNEE". At 2345 identity was established with "SHEPPARTON", who signalled they were investigating suspected A/S contact. Approx. position 12degrees 04 minutes South, 129 degrees 35 minutes East. "CASTLEMAINE" joined in search under the operational orders of H.M.A.S. "SHEPPARTON", but did not obtain any suspicious contact throughout the search. At 0630 on 17th November hunt was suspended and surveying



*HP 25/43*

*3/1 F*



Continued:

commenced. At 1220 "CASTLEMAINE" received orders to proceed independently to intercept S.S. CHARLES F. WOOSTER. Ship steamed at 13.5 knots to intercept <sup>on</sup> the latest known course of CHARLES F. WOOSTER.

(7) At 0640 on the 18th November, two aircraft were sighted, and asked if they had seen any merchant vessel, in the area. Nil report. At 1145 submarine surfaced ahead distant 5 miles. Ship went to action stations, until identity established as H.M. Submarine "SEA-ROVER" on passage from Fremantle to Darwin. Submarine stated they had sighted a merchant vessel answering to the description of CHARLES F. WOOSTER, at 0500 that morning in a position 53 miles to South-West. At 1510 H.M.A. SHIPS "PARKES" and "JUNEE" were sighted having assumed an A/S patrol and at 1545 "SHEPPARTON" was sighted, also on patrol, and "CASTLEMAINE" received instructions to escort Submarine "SEA-ROVER" towards Darwin.

(8) At 0524 on 19th November, object sighted <sup>on port</sup> beam distant 4 miles. Approach was made at "Action Stations" and submarine identified as H.M. Submarine "STURDY" also on passage from Fremantle to Darwin. H.M. Submarine "STURDY" took station astern of "SEA-ROVER" and "CASTLEMAINE" continued as escort to both submarines. At 0630 "CASTLEMAINE" was instructed to part company with the submarines, and proceeded to survey area to recover beacons. At 1230, further orders were received to proceed direct to Darwin. This was complied with and "CASTLEMAINE" anchored in Darwin Harbour at 1800, 19th November.

(9) At 0730 on 20th November, weighed anchor and proceeded to Main Jetty to complete with fuel, water and stores. At 1700 ship left Harbour to join H.M.A.S. "MORESBY" at Port Nelson.

(10) At 1025 21st November, when in position 12 degrees 34 minutes South, 127 degrees 26 minutes East, two submarines were sighted on the surface distant 8 miles and identity established as U.S. Submarines.

(11) At 1240 on 22nd November, anchored in Port Nelson. Until 2045 on 26th November, "CASTLEMAINE" remained in the Port Nelson and York Sound area on general survey duties, in accordance with instructions received from H.M.A.S. "MORESBY", then proceeded to Browse Island to rendezvous with H.M.A.S. "MORESBY".

(12) At 0645, 27th November, joined H.M.A.S. "MORESBY" and resumed survey duties in the Browse Island area under the orders of H.M.A.S. "MORESBY".

All time expressed are Zone Time.



GENERAL.

(1) As far as operational duties permitted general maintenance and upkeep were carried out on-board and Ship's Company exercised at General Quarters. Owing to depletion in hands through sickness and landing of tide-pole party, it was very difficult to carry out the schedule of work laid down.

(2) The general conduct and discipline of the Ship's Company under rather trying circumstances, owing the lack of opportunities for recreation, poor quality of food obtainable and almost entire absence of fresh vegetables has been very good, only very mild breaches of discipline occurring during the month under review.

(3) Health.

The general health of the Ship's Company is deteriorating. The number suffering from DERMATITIS increases daily and it is assumed that this is due to the lack of fresh fruit and vegetables and very unbalanced diet, which apparently is difficult to obtain adjust in this station, combined with the sleeping accommodation for ratings, which is stretched to the utmost. All encouragement is given for ratings to sleep on deck, but a complete nights rest is most uncertain during this season. This necessitates sleeping under most adverse conditions with necessary black-out whilst in open waters and the very cramped space available below decks.



(4)

MONTHLY FIGURES.

Hours under way	392
Distance run	4210
Average miles per ton of fuel	11.26
Fuel consumed	373

TOTAL FIGURES SINCE COMMISSIONING

Total hours under way	9104
Total distance run	82918
Average speed	9.1

*P. G. Collins*  
Lieut-Comdr. R.A.N.R.(S).  
Commanding Officer.



SECRET

H.M.A.S. CASTLEMAINE

JUNE 1943

MONTHLY REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS.

- June 1 Escorting SS Darvel and Admiral Halstead in company with H.M.A.S. Wilcannia from Thursday Island towards Darwin via Mililingimbi. Between Thursday Island and Cape Wessel developed an asdic defect which was found to be due to a faulty Gas-gap arrester. As no spare was held on board Wilcannia was closed to 15 feet at 10 knots to collect a spare part, and station was then resumed with the asdic in operation. At 1915 rounded Cape Wessel.
- 2 1040IK Castlemaine met ML 814 and detached Admiral Halstead from convoy to proceed towards Cape Stewart, Wilcannia escorting Darvel to Darwin. At 1815 IK Castlemaine and Admiral Halstead anchored in 6 fathoms outside bar off Yabooma Island.
- 3 From daylight hove up and carried out A/s patrol around Admiral Halstead whilst that vessel discharged cargo. 1550 Admiral Halstead completed discharge, hove up and proceeded to follow Castlemaine towards Darwin.
- 4 Between 0745 and 0756 stopped for Steering Engine adjustment. 1530 Cape Don Light abeam, entered Dundas Straits. 2040 Anchored Admiral Halstead off Cape Hotham until daylight.
- 5 0620 Hove up and proceeded via Clarence Straits towards Darwin, entering harbour through boom gate at 1341 and secured to Main Jetty at 1900 to complete with oil and water.
- 6 0720 Slipped from Main Jetty and secured to Civil Aviation Jetty to complete with Dieselene and stores.
- 7 0732 Slipped from C.A. Jetty to anchorage. 0900 hove up and proceeded out of harbour escorting SS Sibigo towards Mililingimbi, passing through boom at 0956, Clarence strait at 1530, Cape Hotham at 1648 and Abbott Shoal buoy at 1843, anchoring with Sibigo at 2000.
- 8 0325 hove up and proceeded on voyage passing Cape Don at 0653 and Cape Croker at 1600, thence by the inshore route west of Grant Island, north of Goulburn Islands to arrive off Cape Stewart at 1030/9
- 9 Approaching Yabooma Island, before crossing bar, I was advised by 'Chinamp' that no pilot was available for SS Sibigo. I then with every confidence put Lieut Cdr. Williams RANR (executive officer of Castlemaine) on board to pilot Sibigo over the bar and into Mililingimbi anchorage where the cargo discharge was to take place, which he did confidently and efficiently by anchoring Sibigo at 1500 IK.
- 9-14 From 1500 on the 9th until 1400 on the 14th Sibigo's cargo was discharged. A detailed report on the rate of discharge on this occasion was submitted to NOIC Darwin. On taking departure from Mililingimbi at 1400 escorting Sibigo rendezvous was made with H.M.A.S. Inverell, escorting Darvel and Tulagi, to seaward of the Yabooma Channel. Tulagi was detached from Inverell, who proceeded with Darvel into Mililingimbi and Castlemaine proceeded towards Cape Wessel conveying Tulagi and Sibigo, and thence to Thursday Island arriving there at midday on 17th June
- 17 At Thursday Island, completing with fuel and awaiting orders.
- 18-19 At 1410 hove up and proceeded to Normanby Sound anchorage where a pre sailing conference was held on board Castlemaine with the Commanding Officer, Inverell, and the master of the U.S. Transport Charles P Steinmetz. At 1800 the convoy hove up and proceeded towards Darwin until off Cape Wessel. At midnight on 21 June Castlemaine developed boiler water contamination, which was finally traced to faulty tubes of the port condenser. Details of this defect have been submitted to NOIC Darwin.. When it was decided that Castlemaine could not keep up with the convoy, it proceeded alone escorted by Inverell, given sufficient time to draw away before Darwin was advised by W/T of the position.
- 23 In the evening, temporary repairs having been effected, Castlemaine proceeded to Darwin on both engines, arriving there on 24th at 1325 IK.
- 25-28 Completing with fuel oil, water and stores, and effecting permanent condenser repairs at Darwin.
- 29 Took departure from Darwin in company with H.M.A.S. Inverell escorting USA T. Charles P Steinmetz to Thursday Island. Carried out 4" gunnery practice on departure, at targets, as prearranged by Base Gunnery officer.
- 30 At sea escorting U.S.A.T. Charles P Steinmetz to Thursday Island.



MONTHLY LETTER OF PROCEEDINGS      JUNE Ctd.

The health of the Ship's Company is very good, considering that they have just completed 12 months' constant service in the tropics, and their conduct is excellent. The condition of the ship, structurally, is good and clean, although she is about to proceed South for refit.

Monthly figures:

Hours under way	352 hrs.
Distance run	2,833 miles
Average miles per ton of fuel	11.26 miles per ton fuel
Average speed	8.05

Total figures:

Miles since commissioning 17 June 1942	30,837.5 miles
Hours under way	3,650 hrs.
Average speed	8.45 knots.

*P. J. Sullivan*  
Lieut. Cdr. R.A.N.R.(S)  
Commanding Officer.



SECRET

H.M.A.S. CASTLEMAINE

WAR DIARY AND LETTER OFF PROCEEDINGS

MARCH 1943

- March 1 Arrived at Darwin 1830 KL having escorted SS Wanaka and SS Burwah from Thursday Island against strong North West Monsoon Conditions.
- 2 - 3 At Darwin Floating Dock where bottom was scrubbed clean and given one full coat anti corrosive and one full coat anti fouling, and under-water fittings were examined. Vide Docking Report submitted on 10 March 1943.
- 4 - 5 Completing with oil and water and storing ship.
- 6-7 Escorting SS Babinda to Wyndham
- 8- 9 Escorting SS Babinda to Mission Bay(Drysdale Mission). Ship's company assisting in Discharge of Babinda.
- 10-11 Ship's company assisting to complete discharge of Babinda. Escorting her to Port Keats.
- 11-12 Crossed Bar and proceeded up creek to anchorage within five miles of mission. Ship's company assisting to discharge Babinda's cargo.
- 13 Departed from Port Keats escorting Babinda to Peron's Island.
- 14 Anchored Castlemaine and Babinda at 0125 KL in 7 fathoms to await daylight to approach Peron's Island. 0700 KL hove up anchor and proceeded. Anchored off Peron's Island at 0840 KL.
- 15 Babinda completed discharging Peron's Island cargo at 1400 when both vessels proceeded on return to Darwin arriving at midnight KL
- 16-17 At Darwin completing with oil, water and stores.
- 18 Proceeded from Darwin at 0700 escorting SS Babinda to Millingimbi Mission in Arnhem Gulf.
- 19 Anchored vicinity of Cape Stewart at 2219 KL at limit of Charted water, in thick weather with heavy rain and wind squalls, to await daylight to approach entrance channel.
- 20 0700 KL proceeded from anchorage towards mission through Crocodile Islands, when Castlemaine grounded rounding Yabooma Island. (Vide Report of Board of Enquiry held in H.M.A.S.Castlemaine)
- 21 0847 Anchored off Millingimbi Mission Station, covering Babinda.
- 22 At Millingimbi
- 23-24 Escorting Babinda from Millingimbi to Darwin
- 25-26 Entered dry Dock at Darwin for examination of Hull after grounding. Left Dock.
- 26-31 Completing with oil fuel, water and provisions, and boiler cleaning at Darwin

For Month ending 31 March 1943:-

Hours under way	224 hrs
Distance steamed	1783 miles
Average miles per ton of fuel	12.3 miles

Total figures:-

Total distance steamed since commissioning 17. June 1942	24,163 miles
Total hours under way " " " " "	2,854 hrs
Average speed	8.47 m.p.h.

*[Signature]*  
Lieut. Cdr. R.A.N.R. (S)  
Commanding Officer.



SECRET

MONTHLY REPORT OF DUTIES PERFORMED BY H.M.A.S. CASTLEMAINE

FEBRUARY 1943

Feb 1 1943  
3-7

At Darwin completing with oil, water and provisions  
Escorting SS Burwah and SS Kooliga from Darwin to Thursday Island. Weather conditions were reasonable, but owing to poor quality coal in Kooliga, the speed of convoy was reduced from 8.5 to 6.8 knots for the voyage. It is submitted that vessels with speed of less than 9 knots should at least be supplied with sufficient good quality steaming coal for the passage between Thursday Island and Darwin, and return.

8-11  
12

At Thursday Island.  
In open roadstead off Goods Island, in Prince of Wales Channel completing with fuel oil from R.F.A. Bishopdale. Weather conditions were too boisterous ~~mixte~~ to remain alongside Bishopdale for this purpose without damage to Castlemaine. A second and successful attempt was made later when conditions eased and the fuel oil obtained.

13-16

In company with H.M.A.S. Vendetta escorting R.F.A. Bishopdale from Thursday Island to Darwin. Rain and rough seas prevailed throughout, the convoy punching into a hard Northwest Monsoon wind.

17-19

At Darwin, completing with oil water and provisions.

20-23

In company with H.M.A.S. Vendetta escorting R.F.A. Bishopdale from Darwin to Thursday Island

23

Proceeded alongside SS Wanaka at Port Kennedy and took on board 40 tons of fuel oil.

24-1 Mar

Escorting SS Wanaka and SS Burwah from Thursday Island to Darwin.

This passage was made against strong northwest monsoon winds and rough head seas lashed up by the shallow waters of the gulfs of Carpentaria and Arnhem.

Monthly Figures:

Distance steamed:	3234 miles
Hours under way:	395 hrs
Average distance per ton of fuel:	12 miles

Total figures:

Total distance steamed since commissioning 17 June 1942:	22380 miles
Average speed:	8.11 knots
Total hours under way since 17 June 1942:	2696 hours.

  
Lieut. Cdr. R.A.N.R.(S)  
Commanding Officer.



From:- Commanding Officer, H.M.A.S. CASTLEMAINE  
16th October 1942 3/113  
To:- Secretary, Naval Board  
Subject:- Letter of Proceedings

Submitted:-

**SECRET**

For your information and records a Letter of Proceedings concisely relating the duties performed by this vessel from the date of commissioning at Melbourne on 17th June 1942, until arrival at Darwin on 5th October 1942, when she resumed duties under the command of Naval Officer in Charge, Darwin.

Subsequent to commissioning the vessel proceeded to Sydney for completion and working up; the latter comprising three days in Broken Bay and escorting of convoys from Sydney to Melbourne until she sustained damage in collision with a Manly Ferry in Sydney Harbour on the night of Tuesday 11 August. Repairs resulting from the collision were completed by Cockatoo Dockyard in seven days and the vessel proceeded on her voyage to Darwin on 26 August 1942.

En route a call was made at Townsville to replenish with fuel oil, water and provisions, where on Naval Board's authority the vessel became engaged in operations of Naval Officer in Charge, Townsville, escorting convoys to and from that port to Port Moresby, for a period of four weeks.

Finally being released from her Coral Sea duties, the vessel continued her voyage from Port Moresby to Darwin via the Great North East Passage and Thursday Island.

Since commissioning no material defects, either structural or mechanical have been observed; the engines have run smoothly throughout, covering a distance of 8000 miles in four months. With the assistance of the Engineer Lieutenant and my own personal observations, I find that with a clean bottom 160 R.P.M., giving 11.5 knots appears to be the most satisfactory speed and on that account the vessel has been kept as near to those revolutions as circumstances have permitted. The only occasion on which a sustained high speed run has been attempted was 185 R.P.M. for 10 hours from Bramble Cay to Thursday Island, completing the passage in daylight.

Officers and ratings have performed their respective duties with zeal. The behaviour of the Ship's Company throughout has been exemplary.

*P. Sullivan*  
Lieut Cdr. R.A.N.R.(S)  
Commanding Officer.