

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

HMAS CAPE LEEUWIN

Item number: 83/1

Title: June-October 1945



AWM78-83/1

[83/1]

"CAPE LEEUWIN" L. of P.

NAVAL HISTORICAL RECORDS

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 Dig (F) Act'n 18-19.
Reviewer: LCCR R. L. Smith (RANEM)
Signature: *R. L. Smith* Date: 1 Nov 90

CONFIDENTIAL

2026/7/ 1866

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY.

MINUTE PAPER

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

S.N.B. Mr 29/11

2 N.M. (18/11)

3 N.M. 2/11

D. of P. 18/12

D.R. 1/11

D.N.I. (Later)

Ops. (N) 20/11

N.5. 5/11

D.E. (N) 7/11

D.O.T.M. 9/11

D.N.M.S. 10/11

H.P.B.

N.A.2.N.M. 14/11

N.5.

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

✓ Mrs French

16/11

12/11

101

10 JAN 1946

7

COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA

RECEIVED
17 JAN 1946

20/11

40 1/2

CONFIDENTIAL

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY.

MINUTE PAPER

2026/7/1466

0.441/45.

Q SUBJECT: *Armas "Cape Jeeuwin" Report of Proceedings October 1945*

~~DPS~~ *W* 20/11

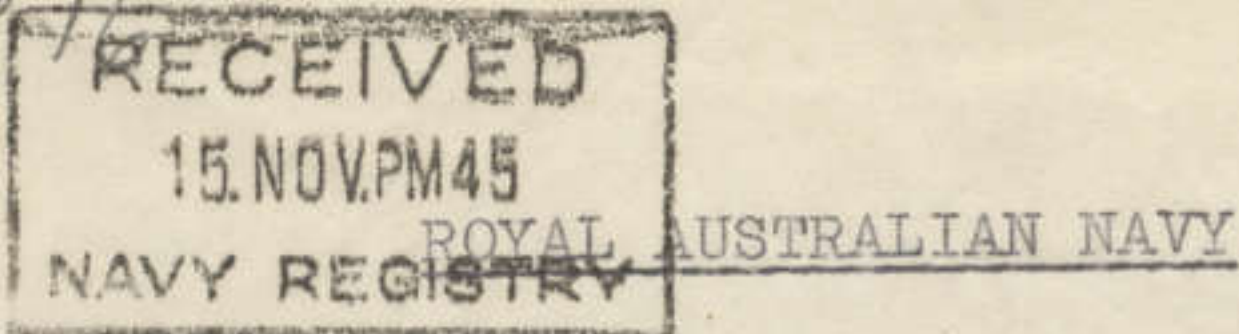
↓
~~DTSR~~ *RP 25/11*

~~DDP~~ *G* 27/11

~~DEWS~~ *W* 27/11

~~ISTM~~ *W* 28/11
W

Report No. 17
Original



orig.

From:- THE COMMANDING OFFICER H.M.A.S. CAPE LEEUWIN
Date:- 31ST OCTOBER 1945
To:- THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVAL BOARD (Thru NOIC Brisbane)
Subject:- REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR OCTOBER 1945

At 0800 on the 4th October 1945 H.M.A.S. CAPE LEEUWIN departed from Brisbane with the Breaksea Spit Light vessel in tow.

The light vessel was placed in the charted position North of Breaksea Spit about noon on the 6th October when "CAPE LEEUWIN" proceeded to Sandy Cape to land stores.

M.
The night was spent at anchor, the landing being rough, and the stores landed early the following morning, the ship then returning to Breaksea Spit and picking up the light vessel to be withdrawn and proceeding with her to Bustard Head where stores were landed during the forenoon of the 8th October and the voyage resumed to Townsville at 1000.

The ship was berthed at Townsville at 0800 on the 11th October and after carrying out work connected with the light vessel, sailed for Frederick Reef via Capricorn Channel at 1530 on the 12th October,

Frederick Reef was reached at 0930 on the 15th Oct, the vessel anchored, and the necessary work carried out at the light station.

Departure was taken for Lihou Reef at 0600 the next day and the latter placed reached at 0930 on the 17th Oct, where the vessel was anchored and the work completed by dark, when the ship left for Bouganville Reef arriving there at 0700 on the 19th October.

After completion of the work here the ship sailed for Thursday Island via Grafton Passage at 1100.

Thursday Island was reached at 2315 on the 21st Oct and anchor dropped in Normanby Sound.

At 0600 the next morning the ship proceeded up-harbour and was anchored off the wharf.

The berth becoming vacant at 0930 the vessel was taken alongside and the work of loading lighting equipment commenced.

This work being completed at 1400 on the 23rd Oct the vessel was anchored in the stream and the launch "SANDFLY" taken on board the next forenoon, two motor dinghies having been loaded while at the wharf.

Anchor was weighed at 1100 and departure taken for Brisbane.

At 0700 on 30th October "SANDFLY" was discharged at Cowan Cowan, Moreton Bay, and the ship berthed at Newfarm Lighthouse depot wharf at 1100.



[Signature]
Lieutenant
COMMANDING OFFICER

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY.
MINUTE PAPER.

2026/7/1466.
18/9

3644.

14/9
SUBJECT: OPERATIONS OF "CAPE LERUWIN"

~~Dept~~ 18/9
~~ops~~ 17/9

~~ops~~ 18/9

reps 18/9

18/9
D.N.G. 25/9
NH 25/9
R.F.C.

Mr Slessor
Miss Joubert

22/9

WINDLE BARREN
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Submitted
REPORT No 15.

ORIGINAL



DEPT. OF NAVY
SECRET

orig 2026 7 1466

FROM. THE COMMANDING OFFICER H.M.A.S. "CAPE LEEUWIN".
DATE. 2/9/45.
TO. THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVAL BOARD, THU. N.O.I.C. (BRISBANE)
SUBJECT. OPERATIONS OF H.M.A.S. "CAPE LEEUWIN".

Boiler cleaning being finished the ship was slipped from U.S.S. "DOBBIN" at 1300 on the 25th. June and at 0812 on the 26th. June she entered A.R.D.12 floating dry dock.

The dry docking was completed at 0600 on 29th. June and the ship undocked, when after refuelling and taking in fresh water she left for Manila Bay at 1700 on 1st. July.

The mail was here collected and 2 tons of galley coal loaded.

Departure was taken at 1700 for San Pedro Bay.

San Miguel light was relit during the forenoon of 4th. July, and the ship brought to an anchor off Pagbabacnan Point, Homonhon Island at 1050 on 5th. July.

During the afternoon a light buoy was here laid when the ship proceeded and anchored off Tolosa at 2400. At 1510 July 6th. the ship was taken to Tacloban and spare lighting equipment was landed the next day. Leaving Tacloban at 0630 July 8th. stores and fresh water were taken in San Pedro Bay and final departure for Morotai taken at 1900.

Morotai was reached at 1400 July 11th, the vessel remaining until 1800 on 20th. July when she left for Jiew Island in company with H.M.A. Ships "BARCOO" and "HAWKESBURY".

The light was completed and lit on Jiew Island by 1200 on 22nd. July and the voyage resumed to Boo Besar Island in company with H.M.A.S. "BARCOO" at 1800, "HAWKESBURY" having previously departed.

After an inspection, work was commenced at Boo Besair Island in company with H.M.A.S. "BARCOO" at 1300 on 23rd. July.

To get a good arc of visibility it was decided to erect two lights. The erection of one only would have involved the cleaning of six to eight acres of bush, much of which was large trees up to a hundred feet high.

The two lights, both on wooden framework towers about 50 feet high, were finished and the lights operating by 1700 on 27th. July.

Anchor was weighed at 1830, the arcs checked and the voyage continued to Thursday Island in company with H.M.A.S. "HAWKESBURY", "BARCOO" having returned to Morotai several days previously.

The work at both Jiew and Boo Besar Islands was much expedited by the assistance of working parties from H.M.A. Ships above mentioned.

Some rough weather was experienced on the passage to Thursday Island where the ship was anchored in Normanby Sound at 1925 on 1st. August, "HAWKESBURY" having parted company at 1700.

Water and fuel, also some stores were taken aboard at Thursday Island wharf on the 2nd. August.

At 0700 the following day departure was taken for Herald Patches light buoy which was reached and relit at 1000.

The ship was then anchored off Ince Point and maintenance work commenced at 1300. This work was completed at 1300 the next day July 4th., when the ship left and commenced the inspection and maintenance work of the great North East Channel Lights.

East Strait Island, Double Island and Harvey Rock lights were completed during the 4th. and 5th. August, Bet Island and Saddle Island on 6th. August. Bet Island light was out on arrival there. Bet reef and Coconut Island lights were completed on 7th. August Arden Island and Dalrymple Island on 8th. August.

During the afternoon of 8th. August, while at anchor off Dalrymple Island, H.M.A.S. "BANGALOW" arrived from Port Moresby and anchored nearby.

During the next forenoon full acetylene gas cylinders were transferred to "BANGALOW" and empty ones taken from her. The ships parted company at 1030, "CAPE LEEUWIN" for Stephens Island and "BANGALOW" for Thursday Island.

Anchor was dropped off Stephens Island at 1300, and work on shore commenced. This was completed at 0830 on 10th. August when the ship left for Albany Rock completing some work at Arden and Saddle Islands en route.

"BANGALOW" had reported on arrival at Dalrymple, that Bramble Cay light buoy was extinguished; but owing to the rough sea running she had been unable to relight it when passing -- it being necessary to hoist the buoy on board to change the batteries, these being flat.

As the wind and sea had not abated on "CAPE LEEUWIN'S" departure from Stephens Island it was deemed useless to continue to the buoy, the return voyage as above stated was therefore commenced an arrangement having been made with "BANGALOW" that she should re-charge Bramble Cay buoy on return to Port Moresby from Thursday Island, if the weather continued too rough for "CAPE LEEUWIN" to carry out the work.

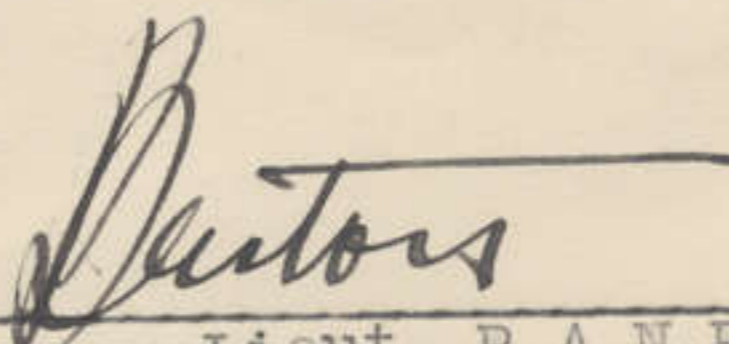
The work at Albany Rock was carried out during the afternoon of 11th. August and anchor dropped off Cairncross Island at 2220.

The work at Cairncross was completed by nightfall on 12th. and departure was taken for Hannibal Island at 0430 on 13th. August, work ashore being commenced at 0800.

On completion at Hannibal Island at 1100 on 14th. August maintenance and servicing was continued at Restoration Rock, Hannah Island, Wharton Reef, Coquet Island, Three Isles and Rocky Island the ship berthing at No. 10 wharf Cairns at 0740 on 21st. August.

After picking up stores etc. departure was taken from Cairns for Brisbane at 1130 on 22nd. August.

The manned light stations at Pine Island, North Reef, Lady Elliot Island and Sandy Cape were stored en route and the ship berthed at lighthouse depot wharf Brisbane at 1100 on 27th. August.


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

TELEPHONE
FO 444.
as all
correspondence to
Box 4115, G.P.O.
SYDNEY

Commonwealth of Australia

Department of The Navy

DEPT OF NAVY
SECRET St 2780

2026 • 9 • 506
Hydrographic Branch,
48 Milson Road,
H.M.A. NAVAL ESTABLISHMENTS, Cremorne.

SYDNEY 9th February, 1944

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE

No. A.H. 758/43
2.

ACK. BY A.S. 1330Y
11 FEB 1944
INIT

SECRET.

60203

2026
9

The Secretary,
Naval Board,
St. Kilda Road,
MELBOURNE.

Checked for
Indexing

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS TO COMMANDING OFFICER
H.M.A.S. "CAPE LEEUWIN"

A1572

Submitted for the information of the Naval Board
the attached copy of the above General Instructions.

F. E. Don

Officer-in-Charge,
Hydrographic Branch.

Ops (M) Qld 15/2
Enc. (1)

2026 9 506
15/2

✓
17/2/44
Jm 15/2

Hydrographic Branch,
43 Milson Road,
Cremorne.

RESTRICTED

A.H. 758/43

2.

M. Kelly
18.5.65

8th February, 44

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS TO COMMANDING OFFICER,
H.M.A.S. "CAPE LEBUWIN"

Sail in accordance with your Sailing Orders issued by Naval Officer-in-Charge, Brisbane, and after arrival in New Guinea area and reporting to Naval Officer-in-Charge, New Guinea, proceed with your programme of erection and maintenance of Navigational Aids.

2. Contact with the Commanding Officer, H.M.A.S. "MORESBY" should be made as soon as the opportunity occurs.

3. A copy of Commander Seventh Fleet 020313 regarding Navigation Aids is attached. Also attached are recommendations of the Commander, Service Force. If equipment is available and circumstances permit (a) and (b) should be undertaken. Items (c) and (d) should be deferred until allocation of priority has been made.

4. A strong recommendation has also been received for the erection of a light on Bougainville Reef. If this is practicable and equipment is available, this work should be undertaken.

5. Depending upon whether Mr. Quantock is made available for a further period you are to carry out maintenance work on Navigation Aids as required by Deputy Director of Navigation, before proceeding to Milne Bay.

6. Previous General Instructions dated 20th September, remain in force where applicable.

(SGD.) K. E. DOW.

Encs. (2)

COMMANDER, R.A.N.,
Commander, Task Group 70.5.

Copies to :

N.O.I.C. Brisbane.
Commander 7th Fleet
N.O.I.C. New Guinea
H.M.A.S. "Moresby"

COPY

TO: ALL TASKGROUP COMS SOWSPACFOR: ALL TASK GROUP FORCE ~~EEEE~~
COMS SOWSPACFOR: CBWPSF: NOIC NEW GUINEA

FROM: COMSEVENTHFLT

TPR

2 FEB

020313

SECRET.

ROUTINE

RECOMMENDATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS FOR ESTABLISHMENT OR CHANGE
OF NAVIGATIONAL AIDS IN NEW GUINEA AREA SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO
NOIC NEW GUINEA WHO WILL FORWARD THESE REQUESTS WITH APPROPRIATE
RECOMMENDATIONS TO CTG 70.5 FOR ACTION X COM 7TH FLT SENDS ACTION
ALL TASKFORCE COMMANDERS AND ALL TASK GROUP COMMANDERS SEVENTH
FLT COMSOWSPACSEAFRONS NOIC NEW GUINEA X COM NAV BASK MILNE
BAY PASS TO LAST ADEE.

(COPY)

COMMANDER SERVICE FORCE

H2

Serial 070

Seventh Fleet

Bd.

Fleet Post Office, San Francisco, Calif.

CONFIDENTIAL

11 January 1944

From: The Commander Service Force, Seventh Fleet
To: The Commander Seventh Fleet.

Subject: Aids to Navigation - Additional recommendation for.

1. From various reports reaching this office and from the past groundings of ships in the waters between Grafton Passage and Milne Bay it is evident that the Navigational Aids now in existence are insufficient.
2. Commanding Officers of Service Force ships have made the following recommendations:
 - a. Enlarge the Radar Beacon on Eustis Reef
 - b. Establish a Radar Beacon on Bougainville Reef.
 - c. Establish a lighted buoy on the shoal off Nawaripa Bay.
 - d. Establish a lighted buoy on the Dorasi shoal.
3. The navigation along the route mentioned is difficult, especially for heavily laden ships, and in view of the fact that this is our main supply route it is regarded as highly important to extend every possible aid to our navigators.
4. Due to the rapid expansion of our auxiliary fleet and to the acute shortage of trained officers it has become necessary to place officers with very little sea experience in our ships. This condition increases the difficult problems of our Commanding Officers inasmuch as they in many cases have no one to consult or advise them when a critical decision has to be made in regard to navigation.

(Sgd. R. G. COMAN.

ACK. BY: AS. 1850Y
25 OCT 1944

DEPT. OF NAVY
2026-9-506
SECRET

SECRET
RESTRICTED

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS TO COMMANDING OFFICER
H.M.A.S. "CAPE LEEUWIN"

Ref: My 100225 and 180514 October

Sail on completion of Boiler Cleaning and loading of equipment on or about 26th October 1944, in accordance with orders issued by Naval Officer-in-Charge, Brisbane and proceed to New Guinea.

2. On arrival report to and place yourself under the orders of C.T.U. 77.5.2 (Commander Hunt) in H.M.A.S. "Gascoyne" and carry out establishment of navigational aids as required by him.

3. On passage to "Gascoyne", an Acetylene Light Buoy is to be established on Dart Reef (041° 3.7 miles from Ipoteto Island; Chart Aus. 038)

4. If practicable, on return passage to Brisbane after completion of Instruction 2, report to Comnavbase Hollandia for establishment of navigational aids at Hollandia. The most important aids only should be established, taking into consideration time and equipment available.

5. The programme is to be arranged to permit of highest priority work being undertaken during the voyage of approximately five weeks.

6. Accommodation and all facilities are to be provided for one Official War Photographer (Lieutenant Edwards) who will join the ship at Brisbane on 29th October.

7. Previous General Instructions dated 20th September, 1943 remain in force where applicable.

(Sgd.) K.E. Oom

COMMANDER, R.A.N.,
Commander, Task Group 70.5

21/10/44

Copies to:-

- Sec., Naval Board. - Submitted for the information of the Naval Board.
- N.O.I.C. Brisbane
- Com 7th Fleet
- H.M.A.S. "Gascoyne"
- N.O.I.C. New Guinea.

K.E. Oom

*Jan 27
N.10*

*ops (N)
N.10*

*OOD
-30/10.*

*ANG
A.1420
(3. where file)*

*C.L
letter A.P. de
mas*

30/10 H.

H. D. I. C. Mem. Service
H. N. V. A. "Commissaire"
COM. 1st Div. 1918
H. O. I. C. "Commissaire"
Sec. "Health Board"

Approved for the information of the

copy to:-

ST/JO/HT

Commander, 1st Div. 1918
COMMISSAIRE, H. N. V. A.

(Sgt.) H. N. V. A.

- 1. The length of the service should be...
- 2. The length of the service should be...
- 3. The length of the service should be...
- 4. The length of the service should be...
- 5. The length of the service should be...

See: MA 10055 and 10056 copies

H. N. V. A. "Commissaire"
GENERAL INFORMATION TO COMMISSAIRE OFFICERS



RESTRICTED
 SECRET.
M. Kelly
18.5.65

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS TO COMMANDING OFFICER
H.M.A.S. "CAPE LEEUWIN"

Ref: My 100225 and 180514 October

Sail on completion of Boiler Cleaning and loading of equipment on or about 26th October 1944, in accordance with orders issued by Naval Officer-in-Charge, Brisbane and proceed to New Guinea.

2. On arrival report to and place yourself under the orders of C.T.U. 77.5.2 (Commander Hunt) in H.M.A.S. "Gascoyne" and carry out establishment of navigational aids as required by him.
3. On passage to "Gascoyne", an Acetylene Light Buoy is to be established on Dart Reef (041° 3.7 miles from Ipoteto Island; Chart Aus. 038)
4. If practicable, on return passage to Brisbane after completion of Instruction 2, report to Comnavbase Hollandia for establishment of navigational aids at Hollandia. The most important aids only should be established, taking into consideration time and equipment available.
5. The programme is to be arranged to permit of highest priority work being undertaken during the voyage of approximately five weeks.
6. Accommodation and all facilities are to be provided for one Official War Photographer (Lieutenant Edwards) who will join the ship at Brisbane on 29th October.
7. Previous General Instructions dated 20th September, 1943 remain in force where applicable.

(Sgd.) K.E. Oom

COMMANDER, R.A.N.,
 Commander, Task Group 70.5

21/10/44

Copies to:-

Sec., Naval Board.- Submitted for the information of the
 Naval Board.
 N.O.I.C. Brisbane
 Com 7th Fleet
 H.M.A.S. "Gascoyne"
 N.O.I.C. New Guinea.

(Sgd.) K.E. OOM.

Secret.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS TO COMMANDING OFFICER
H.M.A.S. "CAPE LEEUWIN"

DEPT. OF NAVY
2026-9-506
SECRET

- Sail on 5th September 1944 in accordance with orders issued by Naval Officer-in-Charge, Brisbane, carrying out the towing and mooring of Breaksea Spit Light Vessel as arranged with Deputy Director of Navigation and Lighthouses, Brisbane.
2. On completion of this operation proceed to Cairns and supply the necessary acetylene cylinders to U.S.S. "Buttonwood" for servicing of Coconut Island light.
 3. Proceed thence on a programme of servicing of lights in the New Guinea Area, visiting Bougainville Light en route and returning to Brisbane as required early in October for docking.
 4. The establishment of a light buoy is to be effected on a rock in position 90°7'15"S., 149°23'49"E. (reference chart 014).
 5. Previous General Instructions dated 20th September 1943 remain in force where applicable.

4/9/44
HN
6/9

ops to 6/9

COMMANDER, R.A.N.,
Commander, Task Group 70.5

1/9/44

sep. 7/9

Copies to:
Naval Board.
N.O.I.C. Brisbane
H.M.A.S. "Warrego"
Com 7th Fleet.

ACK. BY. A.S. 1330Y
4 SEP 1944
INIT. 7

P.A.
ml
8/9/44

9/9/44