

**AWM78**

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

**AWM78 Class 252 - [Fairmile Motor Launch] HMA ML  
816**

**File number:** AWM78/252/2

**Title:** AWM78 252/2 - May-November 1945.  
Duplicate



RCDIG1073813

[252/2]

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL  
ACCESS STATUS

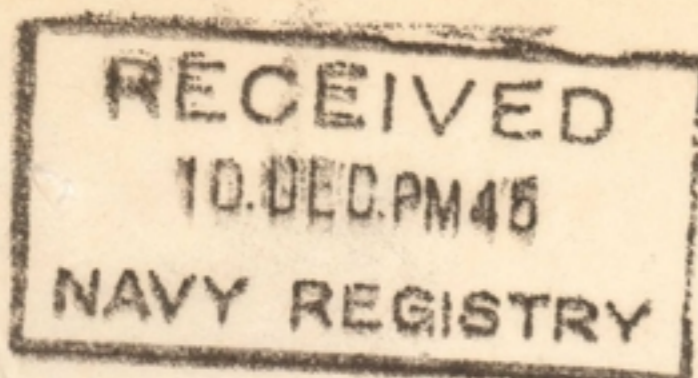
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ML 816 (d)

Declassification Authority—Defence Records  
This record has been reviewed and has been  
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Reviewer: LCLR R. L. Smith (RANEM)

Signature: [Signature] Date: 1 Nov 90

ML 816



1376



From: The Commanding Officer, H.M.A. M.L.816  
Date: 3rd December, 1945 Ref. No. BNO.298/9  
To: The Secretary, Naval Board, Melbourne.  
(Through Naval Officer-in-Charge, Brisbane).  
Subject: REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR MONTH ENDING  
30TH NOVEMBER, 1945

Submitted in accordance with Commonwealth Navy Order No.97/1943 and C.C.N.O. 19/1945.

2. 1st to 19th, lying alongside Horn's Wharf awaiting paying off.
3. 19th to 30th, lying alongside H.M.A.S. "BUNDABERG" at Victualling Wharf mastering stores for return to Naval Stores.
4. Efficiency Report.

Main Engines	- Satisfactory
Auxiliary Engines	- Satisfactory
Aedie	- Dismantled
Hull	- Appears sound, decks leak and copper sheathing lifting.
Batteries	- Satisfactory.
Guns	- Dismantled
Radar	- Dismantled.

5. Monthly Figures.

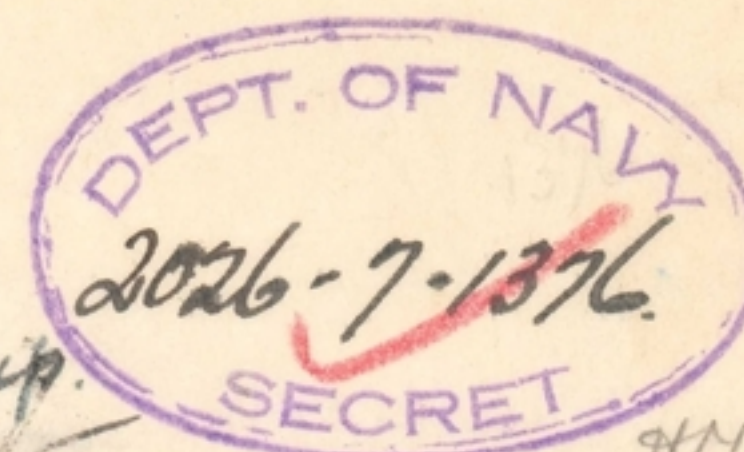
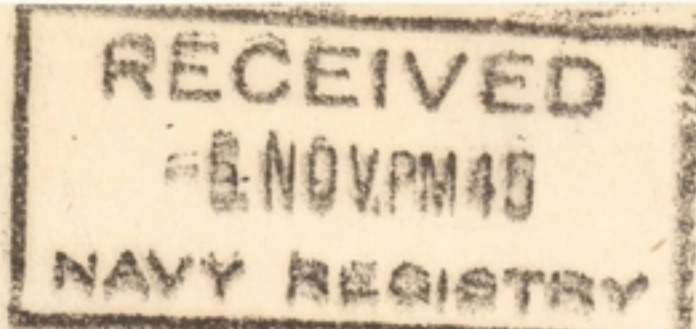
Distance steamed during month	Nil
Hours under way during the month	Nil
Hours under way on one engine during the month	Nil
Total distance steamed since commissioning	39,749 miles
Total hours under way since commissioning	4,056 hours

Date ship commissioned - 1st June, 1943.

LIEUT. COMMANDER, R.A.N.R.  
COMMANDING OFFICER  
H.M.A. M.L.816.

Distribution:

Original N.O.I.C. Brisbane  
2 Copies N.O.I.C. Brisbane  
1 Copy A.C.N.B.  
1 " File BNO.298/9



Dup.

HM 25  
6  
45

From: The Commanding Officer, H.M.A. M.L.816  
Date: 1st November, 1945.  
To: The Secretary, Naval Board, Melbourne.  
(Through Naval Officer-in-Charge, Brisbane.)  
Subject: REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR MONTH  
OF OCTOBER, 1945.

Submitted in accordance with Commonwealth Navy Order 97/1943 and C.C.N.O. 19/1945.

2. Weighed anchor at 0738K/2nd and with H.M.A.S. "SAN NICHELE" in tow, departed from the Laughlan Islands for Milne Bay, arriving at 1422K/3rd, in company with M.L.'s 804 and 820.
3. Departed Milne Bay at 0600K/9th in company with M.L.820 and escorting "SAN NICHELE". Arrived at Port Moresby at 1530K/10th. The M.L.'s were detained in Milne Bay pending repairs to "SAN NICHELE".
4. In company with M.L.820 and escorting "SAN NICHELE", M.L.816 slipped at 0600K/13th and proceeded to Coconut Island, anchoring at 1745K/14th.
5. Weighed anchor at 0753K/15 and proceeded to Thursday Island in company with M.L.820 and escorting "SAN NICHELE", arriving at Thursday Island at 1423K/15th. "SAN NICHELE" was left at Thursday Island under instruction from the Naval Officer-in-Charge. The remainder of the journey to Brisbane was in company with M.L.820.
6. At 0900K/16th, slipped from wharf and proceeded to Margaret Bay, anchoring at 1807K/16th.
7. Weighed anchor at 0758K/17th and proceeded to Night Island, anchoring at 1420K/17th.
8. At 0500K/18th, weighed anchor and put to sea, anchored at Cape Flattery at 1810K/18th.
9. Weighed anchor at 0525K/19th and proceeded to Cairns, securing alongside at 1522K/19th.
10. Slipped at 0435K/21st and proceeded to Townsville, securing at 1815K/21st.
11. Slipped at 0600K/23rd for West Mole Island, anchoring at 1740K/23rd.
12. Weighed anchor at 1010K/24th and proceeded to Mackay, securing to pier at 1548K the same day.
13. Slipped at 1058K/26th and proceeded to Gladstone, arriving at 0700K/27th. Fuelling and watering were completed during the afternoon.
14. At 0600K/28th, slipped and proceeded to Brisbane, arriving Fairmile Base at 0848K/29th. M.L.'s 816 and 820 proceeded to Storey Bridge Wharf at 1300K the same day.
15. Ship alongside Storey Bridge Wharf preparing to pay off.

1st November, 1945.

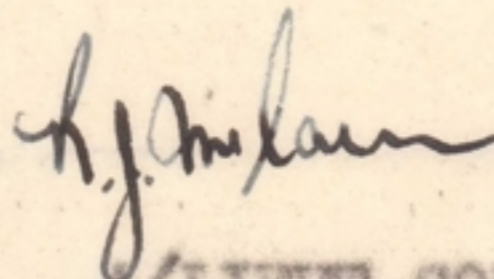
(Through Naval Officer-in-Charge, Brisbane.)

16. Efficiency Report:

Main Engines - satisfactory.  
A/S Engines and equipment - satisfactory.  
Hull - appears sound, copper sheathing lifting in places.  
Batteries - Satisfactory  
Guns - Satisfactory.  
Radar - Satisfactory. The Radar has proved to be a most useful addition to the ship and the set has given most satisfactory service. An echo at a distance of sixty-five miles was obtained while steaming between Gladstone and Brisbane.

17. Monthly figures:

Distance steamed during the month	: 2,338 miles
Hours under way during the month	: 231 hours
Hours under way on one engine during the month	: 22 hrs. Port 36 hrs. S'brd
Average speed for the month	: 10.2 knots.
Gallons of fuel expended during the month	: 6,930 galls.
Gallons of fuel expended per hour	: 30 "
Total distance steamed since commissioning	: 39,749 miles
Total hours under way since commissioning	: 4,056 hours
Date ship commissioned	: 1st June, 1943.



LIEUT. COMMANDER, R.A.N.R.  
COMMANDING OFFICER,  
H.M.A. H.L. 816

Distribution:

Original N.O.I.C. Brisbane  
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**CONFIDENTIAL**

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY.  
MINUTE PAPER.

2026/7/1376

3648....

SUBJECT:

*Hma "Mf 816" Report of Proceedings September 1945*

*Spec mark 20/10*

D.P.S

D.T.S.R

D.O.D

D.C.N.S

I.S.T.N.M

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*DNI (NARO) 16/5/46*

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MINUTE PAPER

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Subject

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RECEIVED  
12.OCT.PM45  
NAVY REGISTRY

REGISTRY

COMMONWEALTH of AUSTRALIA  
Department of the Navy

DEPT. OF NAVY  
2026-7-1376  
SECRET

NN 25  
6  
45

FROM: Commanding Officer, H.M.A. "H.L. 816".  
DATE: 1 October, 1945.  
TO: The Secretary, Naval Board, through H.O.I.C. NEW GUINEA.  
SUBJECT: REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR MONTH OF SEPTEMBER, 1945.

H.M.

Submitted in accordance with Commonwealth Navy Order 97 of 1943 and Confidential C.N.O. 19 of 1945.

2. At 1730L/3rd, under orders from HQIC Torokina, weighed anchor and rendezvoned with H.M.A.S. "LEMBON" to collect Japanese Flag. Anchored at Torokina at 2032L.
3. On 5th in company with H.M.A.S. "DIANWITIA" to Gazelle Harbour, securing at 1855L.
4. On 7th effected rendezvous with Japanese Barges containing Japanese Staff Officers, off Holla Point, which barges were escorted to H.M.A.S. "DIANWITIA". The ship anchored in Gazelle Harbour at 1230L.
5. Effected another rendezvous off Holla Point with Japanese Barges carrying Lieutenant General Honda, on 8th. The Japanese General was embarked on H.M.A.S. "DIANWITIA" and both ships returned to Torokina.
6. On 11th in company with H.L.'s 804 and 820, H.L. 816 proceeded to Buin carrying Australian Army Officers.
7. H.L. 816 returned to Torokina on 12th in company with H.L. 804.
8. On 15th proceeded to Buin with HQIC Torokina and Army Officers, anchoring at 1445L.
9. The ship returned to Torokina on 16th carrying HQIC Torokina and Australian Army Officers. While at Buin the wrecks of several Japanese Ships were examined.
10. On 26th, H.L. 816 towing H.M.A.S. "SAN MICHAEL" and in company with H.L.'s 804 and 820 proceeded to Milne Bay. Prior to sailing each ship was visited by HQIC Torokina.
11. On 27th the ships sheltered in the Loughlan Islands owing to the wind freshening which made it inadvisable to continue with the towing. The wind blew considerably with the results that the ships were still weather bound on 30th.
12. Two hands were admitted to 2/1st A.C.H. at Torokina for a few days. One was a suspected Malaria case which proved negative and the other rating had an abscess on his right arm. Apart from these two cases, the health and morale of the ship's Company is excellent.

13. Efficiency Report.  
 Main Engines - Satisfactory. Batteries - Satisfactory.  
 A/S engines and equipment - Satisfactory. Guns - Satisfactory.  
 Hull - Appears sound. Radar - Very Satisfactory.

14. Naval Stores - There are no Naval Stores available in this area.

15. Monthly Figures.

Distance steamed during the month	:	731 Miles.
Hours under way during the month	:	78 Hours.
Hours under way on one engine during the month	:	Nil
Average Speed for the month	:	9.6 knots.
Gallons of fuel expended during the month	:	2340 gallons.

16  
106

H.M.A. "H.L. 816" - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR DEPTH OF  
SEPTEMBER, 1945, DATED 1 OCTOBER, 1945.

Gallons of fuel expended per hour	:	30 gallons.
Total Distance steamed since commissioning	:	37,409 Miles.
Total Hours under way since commissioning	:	3,825 Hours.
Date ship Commissioned	:	1 June, 1943.

*H. J. McKinnon*

Lieutenant Commander, R.A.N.R.  
COMMANDING OFFICER.  
H.M.A. "H.L. 816"

**CONFIDENTIAL**

*Suprise*

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY.

2026-7-1376

MINUTE PAPER.

3642

*12/20/49* SUBJECT: *"M.L. 816" Report of Proceedings.* August. 1945.

*Soc.*

*D.P.S.*

*DTSR*

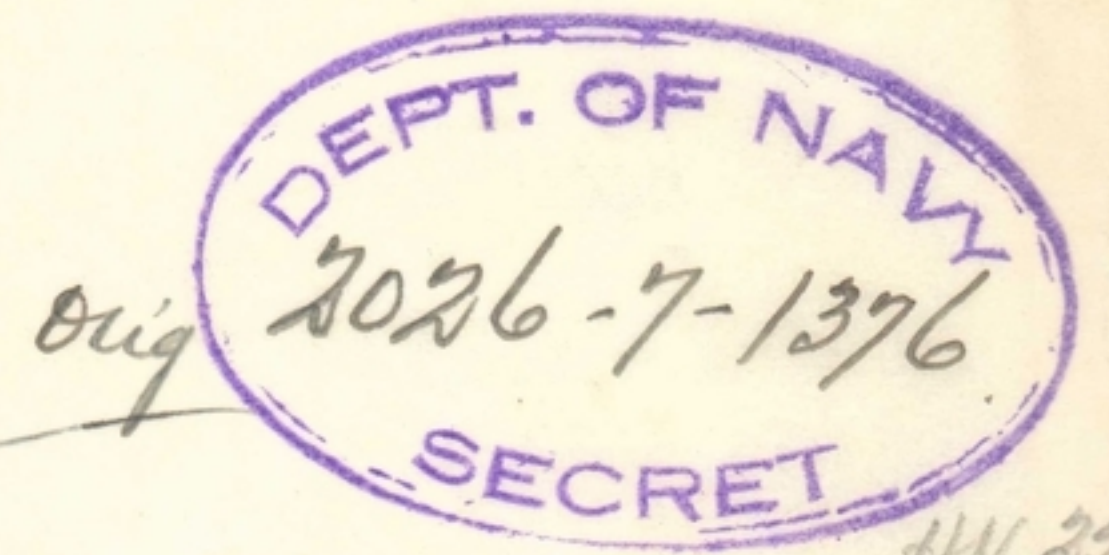
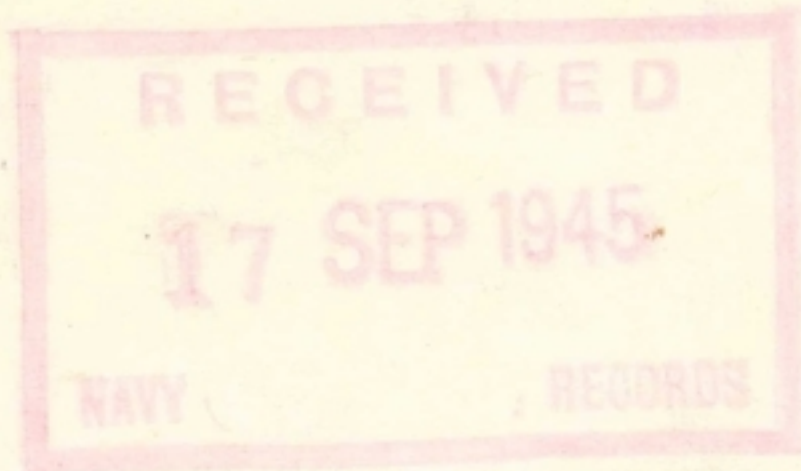
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HM 25  
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Commanding Officer, H.M.A. M.L. 816

1st September 1945

The Secretary, Naval Board, through N.O.I.C. New Guinea.

Report of Proceedings for Month of August 1945.

HM

Submitted in accordance with N.O. 97/43 and C.C.N.O. 19/45.

2. From the 1st to 25th August the ship was undergoing a five hundred hour overhaul, at anchor at Torokina. In case of an emergency, one engine only was dismantled at a time. The work was carried out by the Ship's Engine Room staff with assistance from A.V.97("Klang") in the matter of valve grinding. The unusually long time taken for this overhaul was caused by a breakdown in "Klang's" machinery, whose staff rendered every assistance.
- 3 After watering, the ship proceeded at 1355L/26th August for engine trials which proved entirely satisfactory. On completion of Engine trials a depth charge was dropped for practice. The explosion was satisfactory at a setting of 170 feet. Anchored at Torokina at 1557L.
- 4 At 1130L/28th N.O.I.C. inspected the ship, disembarking at 1205L.
- 5 At 0908L/29th weighed and proceeded to Mutupina Point for additional engine trials, ordered by N.O.I.C. Torokina, anchoring at 1303L at Torokina. Trials were entirely satisfactory
6. At 0900L/30th proceeded along side pontoon wharf for fuel, anchoring at 1200L.
7. At 1400L/31st proceeded to sea in company with M.L.s 804, 818, and 820 to carry out manoeuvres under the direction of N.O.I.C. Torokina, aboard M.L. 816. Anchored at Torokina at 1700L.
8. The health and morale of the Ship's Company remains satisfactory, and as much sport and recreation as possible is provided. Cricket and football matches have been played, and the excellent surfing available has been much used and appreciated.

19/9D

page 2.

9. EFFICIENCY REPORT

Main Engines :- Very satisfactory after five hundred hour overhaul.

A/S Engines and Equipment :- Dome was removed by order of N.O.I.C. New Guinea. The set is kept cleaned and the engines are functioning satisfactorily.

Batteries :- Satisfactory.

Guns :- In excellent condition.

Hull :- Appears sound but has extensive growth adhering to it. This is attributed to the particular anti-fouling paint used at Finschaefen when ship was docked in June. The paint was of American type.

Radar :- Very satisfactory.

10. Naval Stores :- There are no Naval Stores available in this area.

II. MONTHLY FIGURES

Distance steamed during the month :- 85 miles  
Hours under way during the month :- 9 hours  
Hours under way on one engine during month :- Nil.  
Average speed for the month :- 9.4 Knots.  
Gallons of fuel expended during the month :- 270 gallons.  
Gallons of fuel expended per hour " " :- 30 gallons.  
Total distance steamed since commissioning :- 36,658 miles.  
Total hours under way " " :- 3747 hours.  
Date ship commissioned :- 1st June 1943

Distribution

Original N.O.I.C. N.G. *H. J. Nolan*  
Two copies " " A/Lieut. Cdr. R.A.N.R.  
One Copy A.C.N.B. Commanding Officer  
One Copy File. H.M.A.M.L. 816.

15/10

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**SECRET**  
23 SEP 1945  
D.O.T.M.

2026/7/1376

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY.  
MINUTE PAPER

SUBJECT: H.M.A.S. "M.L. 816" REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS.

July 1945

S.N.B. Mr 679

2 N.M. 7/15/49

~~D.N.M.~~ *Sec. 11/19*  
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D.R.M. 13/9  
*WIS 21/2 - 20814/9*

D.N.I.

Ops. (N) 7/15/49

N.S. 1/18/49

D.E. (N) *26/9/45*

~~D.O.T.M.~~ *Admt 28/9*

D.N.M.S. *m 21x*

H.P.B. *6/5/10*

N.A. 2. X.M.

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

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D.N.M.S. BRANCH  
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MINUTE PAPER.

2026/7/1376

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SUBJECT: *Amn "M.L. 816" Report of Proceedings July 1945*

*4/21/8*

*SOCC 2/2/8*

*DPS 2/2/8*

*DTSR 2/20/8*

*DOD 30/8*

*DCNS 4/9*

*ISTAM 6/5/9*

*28/86*

N5



(1)

FROM.....COMMANDING OFFICER, H.M.A. M.L. 816.

DATE.....1st. August 1945.

TO.....THE SECRETARY, NAVAL BOARD, through N.O.I.C. NEW GUINEA.

SUBJECT.....REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR MONTH OF JULY 1945.

*original*  
2026. 7. 1376

RECEIVED  
17 AUG 1945  
NAVY

Submitted in accordance with N.O. 97/43 and C.C.N.O. 19/45.

2. 1445K/2nd. Ship clear of dock at Finschhafen after having new coupling and bearing fitted and bottom cleaned.
3. At 1755K/4th. Proceeded in company with M.L.427 to Jacquinot Bay. During dark hours bad weather was experienced on south coast of New Britain and the M.L.'s were anchored in Ablingi Harbour at 0915K/5th.
4. 0610K/6th. Proceeded in company with M.L.427 and arrived Jacquinot Bay at 1420K.
5. 1610K/7th. Proceeded in company with M.L.427 to Torokina, arriving 1100K 8th. H.M.A.S. "DIAMANTINA", H.M.A.S. "DUBBO" and H.M.A.S. "KIAMA" also there. 1800K clocks advanced one hour to Zone -11.
6. 0800L/11th. Proceeded in company with "DIAMANTINA" and "LITHGOW" to Sorokin Peninsula, 1230L secured alongside "LITHGOW" off Freddie Beach.
7. 0800L/12th embarked Lieut. Comdr. Phelan from "DIAMANTINA" and proceeded to carry out soundings in channel on eastern side of Taiof and Taniva Islands to find out if depth of water was sufficient for "LITHGOW" to sweep for possible minefield. "DIAMANTINA" anchored outside and took ranges and bearings on M.L.816 as soundings were taken. At 1555L soundings were completed and M.L.816 proceeded along north eastern side of Taiof Island. 1645L fired on by long range gun from Sohana Island, at a range of ten thousand yards, the gun was considered to be either 75mm. or 105mm. The first shot was in line and 150 yards over. After the first four rounds two guns were firing and expended approximately 25 rounds. Ship went to full speed and took evasive action. The nearest shot fell one hundred yds off. Secured alongside "LITHGOW" off Freddie Beach at 1736L.
8. 1135L/13th. Proceeded in company with "DIAMANTINA" and "LITHGOW" to Torokina. 1555L anchored at Torokina.
9. 0745L/14th. Fuelled and watered ship. Anchored at 1125L.
10. 0805L/15th. Weighed and proceeded to Saposia Island off Sorokin Peninsula. 1205L anchored off Saposia Is. to act as guard ship for possible barge or Lakatoi attack.
11. 1800L/16th. Proceeded to carry out anti-barge patrol off eastern side of Taiof Is. Anchored off Freddie Beach at 0620L/17th. No activity seen.
12. On 17th. July anchorage was shifted from Freddie Beach to Saposia Is. which proved much more suitable. The anchorage is very well sheltered and all requirements such as ammunition, fuel and water are readily obtained from 42. Aust. Landing Craft Co. stationed there, and who have rendered every assistance.
13. From the night of 17th. to the morning of 24th. the Ship carried out Radar watches at anchor off Saposia Is. and patrols off Taiof Is., on alternate nights for possible enemy barge traffic which had previously been reported. No enemy activity was seen.
14. At 0805L/24th. Proceeded to Torokina with army casualties consisting of two stretcher and four walking cases. Casualties were disembarked at 1235L and anchored at 1250L at Torokina.
15. At 1210L/25th. Departed Torokina for Saposia in company with M.L.808, carrying medical supplies and Army Officers. Anchored at Saposia Is. at 1638L.

*hu*

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- 16. From night of 25th. to morning of 28th., M.L's. 816 and 808 carried out anti barge patrols off Taiof Is. on alternate nights.
- 17. In company with M.L.808, M.L.816 proceeded at 0200L/29 to participate in operation "B.5 Target" in company with H.M.A.S. "LITHGOW". Targets in the area from Cape Totabu to Sing were strafed at close range, targets being indicated by aircraft. In company with M.L.808, M.L.816 returned to Torokina.
- 18. Weighed anchor at 0655L/30th and proceeded with M.L.808 to Torokina, anchoring at 1155L. Both M.L's. returned to Freddie Beach at 1400L to transport casualties back to Torokina. Anchored at 1735L off Freddie Beach but owing to the state of the weather, the medical authorities decided to delay departure with wounded until the following morning.
- 19. At 0858L/31st. Proceeded with three stretcher and nine walking cases in company with M.L.808 to Torokina. On passage an army launch was found to be in difficulties and was taken in tow until repairs were effected. Disembarked casualties at 1320L and anchored at 1345L.
- 20. The health and morale of the Ship's Company remain satisfactory.
- 21. EFFICIENCY REPORT.

Main engines: Very satisfactory. Top overhaul to be carried out at Torokina commencing 2nd. August.

A/S: Dome was removed by order N.O.I.C. NEW GUINEA but the set is given constant attention.

Guns: Some trouble was experienced with the Bofors Gun in that it would not fire in singleshot. This has been attended to by Base Staff but it will ~~need~~ not be known whether it is correct or not until the gun can be fired which will not be until after the top overhaul. otherwise the guns are very satisfactory.

Batteries: Satisfactory.

Hull: The copper sheathing is beginning to lift in small areas along the waterline aft on the port side. This will be repaired by Ship's Company.

Radar: Radar has been very satisfactory throughout the month. It has been invaluable for night patrols, one night in particular when returning from a long patrol it is doubtful if Ship could have returned to base at night without the use of radar.

W/T and R/T: Very satisfactory.

Naval Stores: There are no naval stores in this area.

22. MONTHLY FIGURES.

Distance steamed during the month.....1723.9 miles.  
 Hours under way during the month.....158 hours.  
 Hours under way on one engine during the month..... 11 hours. (Starboard)  
 Average speed for the month.....10.8 knots.  
 Gallons of fuel expended per hour.....30 gallons.  
 Gallons of fuel expended during the month.....5740 gallons. ✓  
 Total distance steamed since commissioning.....36,573 miles.  
 Total hours underway since commissioning.....3738 hours.  
 Date Commissioned.....1st. June 1949.

COMMANDING OFFICER  
*K. J. ...*  
 H.M.A. M.L. 816 R.A.N.R.

SECRET

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY.

MINUTE PAPER.

2026/7/1221

17/5

<sup>80-22.</sup>  
17/5 SUBJECT: *HMVA "M" 816" Report of Proceedings April, 1945.*

S.O.C.C

*cc 17/5.*

D.P.S

*Sup*

D.T.S.R

D.O.D

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RECEIVED  
14 MAY 1945  
NAVY CONFIDENTIAL RECORDS

Commonwealth of Australia

Department of Defence

Original  
1221  
DEPT. OF NAVY  
2046-7-1221  
SECRET

Royal Australian Navy.

From Commanding Officer. H.M.A.M.L. 816.  
Date 1 May, 1945. Reference No.  
To Secretary, Naval Board. Navy Office. Melbourne.  
(Copy to Naval Officer-in-Charge. New Guinea.)  
Subject REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS - APRIL, 1945.

Submitted for the information of the Naval Board, with reference to C.C.N.O. 97/43 and A.C.B. 0238, Section 2 (4) (J), the following Report of Proceedings for the month of April, 1945.

2. 1st April - on passage from Gladstone to Townsville in company with M.L.'s 820, 808 and 811. At 1505K, ships anchored in Cid Harbour, Whitsunday Island. Proceeded at 1920K and secured at Hynes Wharf, Townsville at 0755K/2 April. 0600K/4 April, slipped and proceeded with M.L. 811. At 0740K, M.L.'s taken in tow by H.M.A.S. "WAREE". 0710K/5 April, recovered tow and secured alongside M.L.811 at Naval Jetty, Cairns at 0800K.

3. 0815K/7 April, slipped and proceeded in company with M.L.811 for Moresby via Grafton Passage. 0900K/9 April, secured at Moresby wharf with M.L.811; H.M.A.S. "DUBBO" also alongside.

4. 0605K/11 April, slipped in company with H.M.A.S. "DUBBO" and M.L.811. <sup>tow</sup> 0630K, M.L.'s taken in tow by H.M.A.S. "DUBBO" for Milne Bay. ~~to~~ from "DUBBO" to M.L.811 parted at 0900K. New tow passed and proceeded at 0950K. 1000K/12 April, M.L.'s slipped and secured alongside R.A.N. jetty, Milne Bay at 1050K.

5. 0600K/13 April, slipped and proceeded in company with H.M.A.S. "DUBBO" and M.L.811. M.L.'s taken in tow at 0630K. At 1825K/14 April, tow parted from M.L.811 to M.L.816 in Vitiez Straits. M.L.816 proceeded under own power, keeping station astern of M.L.811 and H.M.A.S. "DUBBO". At 0817K/15 April, anchored in Madang Harbour and fuelled, ammunitioned and provisioned ship.

6. 0530K/16 April, slipped and proceeded in company with H.M.A.S. "COLAC" and M.L.804 for Aitape. 0600K, tow line from "COLAC" to M.L.816 parted. 0940K new tow line passed and ships proceeded. 1140K/17 April, tow slipped and M.L.816 secured alongside "COLAC" in Aitape harbour.

HN  
7. 1705K/18 April, under way in company with M.L.804 to carry out soundings in area bounded by Yuo Island, Muschu Island and north coast of New Guinea. (Chart Aust. 056). At 2300K, M.L.804 commenced sounding being covered by M.L.816. 0315K, completed soundings and proceeded to Aitape. Two Army officers were landed at But for passage. 1050K/19 April, anchored in Aitape Cove.

8. 1300K/21 April, alongside "WILCANNIA", taking on stores for M.L.'s. Proceeded at 1400K in company with H.M.A.S. "SWAN" "DELORAINIE" and "COLAC" for Kairiru Island. 1830K, H.M.A.S. "DUBBO" joined. At 1900K, "DELORAINIE" and "COLAC" streamed sweeps and swept area bounded by Yuo Island, Karasau Island, and south-west corner of Kairiru Island, covered by "SWAN" and "DUBBO". Operation completed at 2300K and 816 proceeded independently to Aitape. M.L. 816 was stationed astern of "DELORAINIE" during sweeping operations, to look for mines. 0630K/22 April, anchored in Aitape Cove.

15/5  
1405K/23 April, proceeded on patrol in company with M.L. 804 to search western side of Muschu Island and souther side of Kairiru Island for enemy activity. At 2025K, M.L.'s were fired on by light machine gun from vicinity of Boikin, range 400 yards.

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8. (cont.)

M.L's had been advised that our patrols had reached Boikin, so fire was not opened on shore, as it may have been our own troops.

9. 0205K completed patrol and proceeded to Aitape. Anchored off Tumelo Island at 0810K.

1400K/27 April, embarked 8 Naval and 11 Army personnel and proceeded to But. Disembarked Army personnel at 1835K and proceeded with M.L.804. Naval personnel transferred to H.M.A.S. "SWAN", and at 2140K, M.L's were in position off eastern end of Kairiru Island. "DELORAINÉ", "COLAC" and "DUBBO" carried out patrol to seaward while "SWAN" covered western end of island. At 0212K, "DUBBO" fired a few rounds of star shell over this ship, and then ceased firing on recognizing us. At 0605K, joined company. 0700K, M.L.804 and 816 proceeded independently to Aitape.

10. 0830K/30 April, proceeded to But with M.L.804. Anchored off at 1320K and "SWAN", "COLAC", "DUBBO", M.L's 804, 427 and 808 anchored during the afternoon. At 1800K, took over duties of Senior Officer M.L's and proceeded on patrol with M.L.804 at 1900K. Strafed Wewak Point from range of nine cables, south-east side of Muschu Island and Cape Pus. No fire was returned. Anchored at But 0130K/1st May.

11. Flotilla now comprises M.L's 816, 804, 820, 427 and 808. All ships are in working order. Arrangements for fuel, water, ammunition and supplies, appear to be satisfactory, and "SWAN", "DELORAINÉ", "COLAC" and "DUBBO", have given every assistance.

April monthly figures:-

Distance steamed -	1,709 miles.
Hours under way -	159½ hours.
Average number of gallons per mile -	3.8 gallons.
Distance steamed since commissioning	
(2 June, 1943) -	34,294 miles.
Average speed -	9.8 knots.
Hours under way -	3,475 hours.

*H. J. Malan*  
 .....  
 A/Lieutenant Commander. R.A.N.R.  
COMMANDING OFFICER.

16/3

16/3  
**SECRET**

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY.

MINUTE PAPER.

2026/7/1221.

3844.

SUBJECT: *Atma "m/y 816" Report of Proceedings February 1945.*

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DEPT. OF NAVY  
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SECRET

CONFIDENTIAL  
NS 11/12/44

The Commanding Officer, H.M.A.S. "RUSHCUTTER".

6 MAR 1945

C.O. 22/2/1.

The Flag Officer-in-Charge, SYDNEY  
(Copy to Secretary, Naval Board, MELBOURNE)  
MONTHLY REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR FEBRUARY - H.M.A. M.L. 816

Submitted for information, the attached report  
of proceedings from H.M.A. M.L. 816 for the month of  
February, 1945.

HW

*Henry Newcomb*  
(Sgd.) H. N. NEWCOMB

a/Commander, R.N.

13/3/45

CONFIDENTIAL

The Commanding Officer, H.M.A. M.L. 816

2nd March, 1945

The Commanding Officer, H.M.A.S. "BUSHCUTTER".

MONTHLY REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR FEBRUARY, 1945.

Submitted in accordance with C.C.M.O. 97/43 and  
A.C.B. 0238, Section 2 (4) (j), the following report of  
proceedings of H.M.A. M.L. 816 for the month of February, 1945.

(SGD) K.J. McLAREN  
Lieutenant, R.A.N.R.

COMMANDING OFFICER,  
H.M.A. M.L. 816



REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR FEBRUARY, 1945.

H.M.A. M.L. 816

CONFIDENTIAL

This ship re-commissioned at Garden Island, Sydney on 10th February and has remained in dockyard hands during the month.

2. Main engines, W/T, Radar and A/S have been installed. It is estimated work will be completed on approximately 10th March.

3. Health and conduct of ship's company is satisfactory. Crew are living ashore at present.

4. 1.	Distance steamed during the month	-	Nil
2.	Hours under way	-	Nil
3.	Average distance per gallon of fuel	-	-
4.	Total distance steamed since original commissioning (2nd June, 1945)	-	31,596 Miles
5.	Total hours underway	-	3,232 Hours.

(SGD) K.J. McLAREN,  
Lieutenant, R.A.N.R.

COMMANDING OFFICER,  
H.M.A. M.L. 816

CONFIDENTIAL

Commanding Officer, H.M.A. "M.L. 816".  
13th December, 1944.

The Secretary, Naval Board, MELBOURNE,  
through S.C. M.L's. "Rushcutter".  
LETTER OF PROCEEDINGS FOR MONTH ENDING NOVEMBER, 30th,  
1944.

Submitted in accordance with C.C.N.O.  
97/43 and A.C.B. 0238 Section 2 (4) (J), the following  
report of proceedings of H.M.A. "M.L. 816" for the  
month of November, 1944.

(Sgd.) H. GALLAGHER,  
Sub-Lieut. R.A.N.R.  
for Commanding Officer,  
H.M.A. M.L. 816.

CONFIDENTIAL

H.M.A. M.L. 816

REPORT OF MONTHLY PROCEEDINGS - NOVEMBER.

1. During the month of November this vessel was based on "Rushcutter" and was undergoing a refit at Garden Island.

2. No operational duties were carried out.

3. A care and maintenance party of coxswain P.O. Motor Mechanic and 2 ratings remained on board. Remainder of ships company proceeded on leave and draft to "Rushcutter".

4. During the month all equipment was taken out of the ship either for replacement or survey. This includes main engines.

5.

(i) Distance steamed during the month = 50 miles.

(ii) Hours under way = 5 hours.

(iii) Average distance per gall. of fuel = 1 gallon  
= .28 miles.

(iv) Total distance steamed since commissioning = 31,596 m.

(v) Total hours under way = 3,232 hours.

6. This vessel paid off as from P.M. December, 2nd, 1944.

Health and conduct of ships company for the month of November was satisfactory.

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CONFIDENTIAL RECORDS  
23 JUN 1945

DEPT OF NAVY  
SECRET  
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FROM Commanding Officer, H.M.A. M.L. 816.  
DATE 1st June, 1945.  
TO The Secretary, Naval Board, Copy to N.O.I.C. New Guinea.  
SUBJECT REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS - MAY 1945.

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Index

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Submitted for the information of the Naval Board with reference to C.C.N.O. 97/43 and A.G.B. 0238 section 2 (4) (J), the following report of proceedings for month of May, 1945.

1. 1720K/1st proceeded on patrol with M.L. 808 in company. From 1925K - 2215K patrolled from Cape Wom to Cape Moem. During this time numerous flashes, which were taken to be guns firing, were observed and fixes taken to mark position on chart. At 2235 K strafed suspected MG position in Dallmann Harbour and then returned to But, anchoring at 0200K/2nd.
2. 1215K/2nd weighed and proceeded on patrol, M.L's 804, 820 and 808 in company. 1343 K strafed Cape Pus Area, 1415K strafed M.G. position in Dallmann Harbour, 1437K strafed Cape Wom. No return fire from these positions. At 1448K opened fire on Wewak Point and at 1454K received return fire from Jap gun on hill south of Wewak Drome, range 4000 yards. Fixes were taken on flashes which corresponded with flashes seen on previous night. Ships took evasive action and were fired on to a range of 7000 yards. Gun was estimated to be a 75mm, and straddled M.L's 804 and 816. Small gun also fired from Wewak Point and was silenced. Proceeding through Mushu Strait at 1535K, M.L's 820 and 808 reported rifle fire from Mushu Island. This area was strafed. M.L's anchored at But at 1700K.
3. 3rd May M.L's fuelled at But. 1915K weighed and proceeded on patrol with M.L. 804, covering western side of Muschu and Kairiru Islands. Strong northwest wind with heavy rain stopped all observation. Anchored at But 0030K 4th May.
4. 0645K/5th Army Officers aboard proceeded to Cape Pus, landing officers at 0855K and laid off. 1200K embarked Army Officers and returned to But landing them at 1400 K.
5. 1125K/6th H.M.A. Ships "Swan", "Colac" and "Dubbo" proceeded with Army barges to carry out exercise landing for "D" Day. 1310K proceeded in company with M.L's 804, 427, 820 and 808 to take part in exercise. 1530K exercise completed, M.L's anchored at But. 1830K proceeded on patrol with M.L. 808 on south and east side of Muschu Island. No observations made and M.L's anchored But at 0200K 7th May.
6. 0618K/8th proceeded with M.L's 820 and 808 to carry out exercise for "D" Day. 0656K M.L's 804 and 427 joined. 0845K exercise completed and M.L's 816 and 820 proceeded to Warbu Bay, Muschu Island, to find possible landing spot for barges. 1056K commenced sounding in Bay with M.L. 820 providing cover. 1110K completed sounding, beach being unsuitable for barges. 1113K M.L's opened fire on tunnel off beach containing drums. 1116K proceeded to But and anchored at 1240K.
7. 9th May M.L's fuelled and ammunitioned.
8. 1700K/10th Air Commodore Walters aboard. 2130K, H.M.A.S. "Swan", "Colac" and "Dubbo" proceeded with Army barges to Red Beach. 0228K/11th M.L's 816, 804, 427 820 and 808 proceeded to join main force for landing. 0620K joined main force and M.L. 427 commenced leading barges in. M.L's proceeded to Cape Terebu to carry out sweep along coast to Cape Farouk. No fire encountered. 0816K M.L's commenced strafing run across beach at 700 yards range.

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0822K completed run and commenced patrolling western flank of beach. 0838K received near miss. M.L.'s took evasive action, M.L. 820 also reporting near miss from suspected 75 mm gun, but position of gun not observed. Captain Esdaile and General Stevens were embarked from H.M.A.S. "SWAN" and H.M.A.S. "COLAC" respectively and landed at Cape Wom at 1235K. They were re-embarked at 1407K and transported to But, landing with Air Commodore Walters at 1600K.

9. 1605K/12th proceeded to Cape Wom in company with M.L. 820 and secured alongside "Swan" at 1810K.

10. General Stevens aboard at 1320K/13th for passage to Red Beach and return. Barges escorted to Red Beach where General Stevens embarked in Army Barge. 1518K, General Stevens aboard and returned to Wom, securing alongside H.M.A.S. "SWAN" at 1815K. At 2330K slipped and proceeded to patrol off Cape Moem. Strafed from 0110K to 0125K. No enemy activity sighted. Anchored at Wom 0335K.

11. In company with M.L.'s 804 and 808 weighed at 0832K/16th and carried out strafing runs on Karip, Terebu and Sumup villages and various suspected enemy concentrations along the shores. Secured alongside H.M.A.S. "SWAN" at 1230K in Dove Bay. Departed Dove Bay at 1610K and returned to Cape Wom at 1800K.

12. 0800K/18th Lieutenant Commander Middleton N.O.I.C. aboard to inspect armament. 1325K O.A. from N.O.I.C.'s staff measured guns. 2300K/18th proceeded on patrol off Cape Moem anchoring at Wom at 0218K/19th. No enemy activity sighted. 0600K/19th proceeded in company with 804, 427 and 808 to But for fuel and ammunition, returning to Wom at 2007K.

13. 0530K/20th proceeded in company with H.M.A.S. "SWAN", "DUBBO", M.L.'s 804 and 808 to western side of Cape Moem. M.L.'s strafed Cape Moem from 0731K to 0737K. No enemy activity sighted. Anchored Wom 0924K. 2300K submarine sighting report. 2320K proceeded in company with M.L.'s 804 and 808, and patrolled area assigned by S.O.W.F. in H.M.A.S. "SWAN", anchoring at Wom at 0740K/21st. Submarine not sighted.

14. 0845K/23rd Major Milligan, Lieutenant Birrel and native boy from ANGAU aboard. 1000K proceeded in company with M.L. 804 and 808 to Kairiru Straits. The run through the straits was commenced at 1057K with M.L.'s in OR 1 open order. Huts, one boat in construction and various enemy concentrations reported by the native boy were strafed. The Straits were cleared at 1120K. During the run considerable small arms fire and about fifteen rounds of heavy gun fire from ashore in Kairiru were encountered by the three M.L.'s. No damage was done. H.M.A.S. "DUBBO" and M.L. 427 covered the operation from eastern end of Kairiru and bombarded known gun positions. Anchored at Wom at 1220K.

15. 1015K/25 weighed and proceeded to east side of Wewak Point to assist H.M.A.S. "SWAN" in sounding area bounded by Wewak Point and Mission Point Reef. Anchored at Wom 1527K. 1915K proceeded on patrol around Kairiru Island. Western side of Muschu was strafed and a large fire started. Ship was fired on from two guns at eastern end of Kairiru Island. Four rounds were fired without doing any damage. Anchored at Wom at 2330K.

16. 1010K/27th Commander Reid aboard M.L. 816 to see M.L. C.O.'s re present arrangements and requirements for M.L.'s to carry on in this area. 1430K, H.M.A.S. "SWAN" departed for Madang with Commander Reid aboard, transferring duties of Senior Officer Wewak Force to Acting Lieutenant Commander K.J. McLaren R.A.N.R. in M.L. 816.

17. 1100K/28th M.L. 811 arrived from Madang to join Flotilla, with Lieutenant Boyle R.A.N.R.(S) and 7 hands aboard to establish Port Directorate.
18. 2005K/30th proceeded on patrol. 2035K - 2120K patrolled southern and western side of Muschu Island. 2225K - 0045K/31st patrolled from Cape Farouk to Richthofen Point. No observations made. Anchored Wom 0155K.
19. This ship remains in good working order, although we have been away from base for 6 weeks without facilities for repairs. For Flotilla to carry out operations for any length of time away from a base, a suitable mother ship is required, which can water, carry out repairs and carry fresh provisions for ships. Petty Officer Telegraphist O.A. and Motor Mechanic would be required for maintenance with adequate spares.
20. The oil fuel stove fitted at Garden Island has proved very satisfactory over the last three months. Ships fitted with kerosene stoves, Alladin type, are constantly having trouble, and two ships in 1st New Guinea. M.L. Flotilla have had to cook for 17 men on Primus stoves, until new stoves arrive from base.
21. It is suggested all M.L's be fitted with oil fuel stoves as they appear safer and give no trouble.  
Straight through ventilators as now fitted in M.L's do not appear satisfactory. If it rains or ship is in any sort of a sea we have to turn ventilators to leeward or screw up plates under ventilators, which cuts off all air below. Dorade type ventilators were efficient and we did not worry about rain or sea.
21. Conduct and morale of the ship's company have remained good. Fresh provisions are obtained in small quantities and the health of the crew remains satisfactory.

<u>May</u>	Distance Steamed	973 miles
	Hours under way	99½ hours
	Average No of gallons per mile	3.8 gallons
	Distance steamed since commissioning 2nd June 1943	35,267 miles
	Total hours under way	3574½ hours
	Average speed	9.8 knots.

SND. *KJ McLAREN*

A/Lieutenant Commander R.A.N.R.  
COMMANDING OFFICER.

AWM 78.