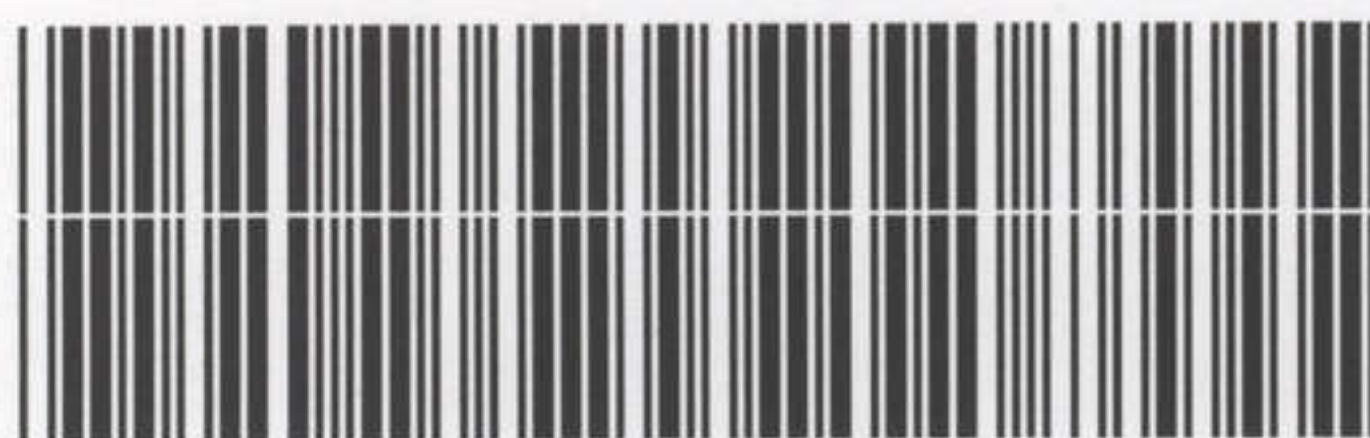


AWM78
**Reports of Proceedings,
HMA Ships and Establishments**

HMAS COOTAMUNDRA

Item number: 93/1

Title: May 1943 - November 1945



AWM78-93/1

92/1

May 43
Nov 45

"COOTAMUNDRA" L. of P.

AUSTRALIAN ARCHIVES
ACCESS STATUS

OPEN

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 MAY 1990
Authority Dig (N) Admin 18.13.
Reviewer: LCDR R. L. Smith (RANEM)
Signature: *R. L. Smith* Date: 1 MAY 90

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CONFIDENTIAL

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY.

MINUTE PAPER

SUBJECT: H.M.A.S. "Cootamundra" REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS.
November 1945

S.N.B. 7/12
2 N.M. 12/12

3 N.M. 13/12

D. of F. 18/12

D.R.M.

D.N.I. (Late)

Ops. (N) 1/10/45

N.5. 12/12

D.E. (N) 2/11

D.O.T.M. 7/11

D.N.M.S. 7/11

H. B. 7/11

N.A.2.N.M. 7/11

N.5. 15/11

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

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Min Smith

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CONFIDENTIAL

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
MINUTE PAPER

2026/7/11/80

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SUBJECT: *Amas "Coofamundra" Report of Proceedings November 1945*

30/11

~~D.P.S~~ *30/11*

~~D.T.S.A~~ *RP 1/2*

~~D.O.D~~ *2 1/2*

~~D.C.N.S~~ *10/12*

~~ISTAM~~

1/5/11

From:

28. NOV. 1945
NAVY
COMMANDING OFFICER, H.M.A.S. "COOTAMUNDRA"
NAVY DEPARTMENT

Date:

26th November, 1945.

Reference No. 520/33/32.

To:

THE NAVAL OFFICER IN CHARGE, PORT MELBOURNE.
THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVAL BOARD.

Subject:

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR NOVEMBER, 1945.



Submitted:

Report of Proceedings for H.M.A. Ship under my command from 1st November, 1945 until paying off at Melbourne on 26th November, 1945.

Arrived Melbourne p.m. 2nd from Sydney, securing to Nelson Pier, Williamstown. Voyage was without incident, with the exception of further Boiler Tube trouble, it being necessary to shut down the Port Boiler immediately on arrival. Ship de-fuelled Saturday, 3rd and de-ammunitioned Wednesday 7th. Shifted berth with tugs "Eagle" and "Marimba" a/m. 8th securing to No. 1 South Wharf at 1000k. Commenced destoring same day preparatory to paying off.

Period 8th to 22nd was spent landing Naval and Armament Stores, and placing machinery etc. in a state of state of preservation. Victualling Stores, Mess traps etc. were landed 23rd and 24th. A.m. 24th shifted berth with tug "Marimba" to alongside "Wagga" and later in the day after cleaning Ship, Ship's Company were discharged to "Lonsdale" and victualled to Lodging and Provision Allowance, a C & M party being retained on board. A.m. 26th Naval Officer in Charge with Staff Officers inspected Ship prior to paying off at 1200k.

Material.

Engine Room and Boiler Room have been placed in a state of preservation. Wear and Waste Test of Boilers was carried out by Staff of S.E.O. Garden Island, commencing Tuesday 20th.

The Engine Room Department will be required for approximately a week after paying off to work under the direction of the B.E.O. completing cleaning and painting of tanks and bilges, Ship has yet to be docked.

Asdic, Radar and W/T departments have been placed in state required by C.N.O. 413/45.

Gunnery: All Armament Stores and Ammunition have been landed. Mounting and 4" gun remain on board, close range weapons and mountings have been removed.

Torpedo: Depth Charge Throwers have been removed and remainder of gear placed in a state of preservation.

Upper Deck: Steel Decks have been chipped and painted, wooden decks painted. All fittings have been placed in a state of preservation. Rigging has not been blacked down as it is considered that much of it requires renewal; observing ship is 18 months out of refit and has been serving in forward areas for that period.

General

Conduct and health of Ship's Company has been excellent. They are all eagerly looking forward to a long awaited long leave.

FIGURES FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER, 1945.

Distance steamed	535.4 miles
Hours under way	42 hours
Average distance per ton of fuel	17.272 miles
Average Speed	12.748 knots

TOTAL FIGURES SINCE COMMISSIONING ON 30th APRIL, 1943.

Total distance steamed	81181.2 miles
Total hours under way	8566.3 hours
Average speed	9.477 knots

R. Connel
Lieutenant R.A.N.R.
COMMANDING OFFICER.

COPY

DEPT. OF NAVY
2026-7-1480
SECRET

From: COMMANDING OFFICER, H.M.A.S. "COOTAMUNDRA"

To: THE NAVAL OFFICER IN CHARGE, PORT MELBOURNE
THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVAL BOARD.

Date: 1st November, 1945.

Reference No. 475/33/30

Subject: REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR OCTOBER, 1945.

Submitted:

Report of Proceedings for H.M.A. Ship under my command for the month of October, 1945.

1st - 6th was spent on passage from Ambon to Thursday Island with H.M.A.S. "Leilani" in tow. Speed of advance was regulated by weather conditions, it being impossible to tow "Leilani" at more than 4 knots for most of the voyage. Tow parted at 0515K/6th - tow was passed and voyage resumed by 0645K. At 2230K anchored in Normanby Sound, weighing at dawn 7th and proceeding alongside main jetty at Thursday Island for fuel. Whilst at Thursday Island a towing bridle was made and fitted to "Leilani", the bracket supplied proving inadequate the head winds and seas encountered causing the screws to pull out, bolts to work, and bracket bend.

Proceeded for Townsville with "Leilani" in tow, via Barrier Reef, a.m. 8th., S/Lt. Finn R.A.N.V.R. being embarked for passage. P.M. 10th it was necessary to shut down Starboard boiler owing to four tubes leaking. Remainder of voyage was made on one boiler at 100 revolutions. On arrival a.m. 13th fuelled and secured alongside H.M.A.S. "Shepparton" in Ross Creek, commenced boiler cleaning and plugging of defective tubes in Starboard boiler. Boiler clean and repairs were effected by a.m. 18th when Ship proceeded to Brisbane with "Leilani" in tow. After passing Whitsunday Passage the weather deteriorated and by p.m. 19th it was necessary to make for shelter, it being impossible to tow "Leilani" at more than 2 knots, at which speed she was making water faster than could be pumped out. Anchored in Refuge Bay, Scawfell Island at 1810K. "Leilani" securing alongside. Wind increased during the night, it being necessary for "Leilani" to slip and anchor closer inshore at 0200K. Weather abated sufficiently to proceed a.m. 21st. Remainder of voyage was without incident, arriving Brisbane p.m. 24th. securing to Cruiser "C" berth for fuel.

Sailed for Sydney 1400K/25th with "Leilani" in tow. With wind and sea astern and favourable set, good time was made. Voyage was without incident with the exception of the towing bridle on "Leilani" being carried away during the first watch on the night of 26th. It was then necessary to tow from the bracket. Arrived Sydney 1900K/27th securing alongside H.M.A.S. "Warrnambool" at No. 4 buoy, "Leilani" then proceeding under her own power to Rushcutter. Slipped and sailed for Port Stephens at 2100K to stand by four R.N. Motor Fishing Vessels, secured to wharf in Nelson Bay. Arrived dawn 28th and entered harbour with H.M.S. "Barthorpe" who was also detailed to assist. It was then decided that "Cootamundra" tow M.F.V.1071 to Newcastle and M.F.V.1012 steaming in company. "Barthorpe" was to tow M.F.V.1081 with M.F.V.1158 steaming in company. M.F.V.1071 was placed alongside and preparations made to pass tow. M.F.V.1012 whilst proceeding independently out of harbour ran aground on the middle ground off Fly Point. She later refloated herself without aid. By this time weather conditions had deteriorated and it was decided to defer sailing owing to unreliability of M.F.V.1012 engines. It was necessary to anchor M.F.V.1071 as ships could not lay alongside without damage, wind blowing force six. M.F.V.1071 commenced dragging anchor at 1200 and "Cootamundra" wighed and towed her clear of West Point. It was then necessary for "Cootamundra" to weigh both of M.F.V.1071 anchors which were foul of each other. One was recovered but the other lost. During the operation M.F.V. bumped "Cootamundra" heavily on several occasions, causing superficial damage to both ships; but not in any way impairing their seaworthiness. As ships would not lay comfortably in condition of wind and tide it was decided to tow M.F.V. 1071 to Newcastle leaving M.F.V.1012 to proceed later with "Barthorpe" Arrived Newcastle 0600K/29th proceeding to Sydney and securing to No. 4 buoy on arrival at 1700. It was unfortunate to say the least that it was necessary for "Cootamundra" to proceed to Port Stephens to stand by these vessels immediately on arrival in Sydney at 1900K/27th as ship had been operating in New Guinea area since June, 1944 without leave for Ship's company with the exception of four days at Cairns in November,

In circulation
15/11/45

Handwritten notes: D.N.I., H.A.R.O.

Handwritten initials: 15/11/E

Handwritten signature: Miss Knick

944. Naturally it was a big disappointment for all Sydney natives who were eagerly waiting their homecoming, especially observing hostilities have now ceased.
Ship sailed p.m. 31st for Melbourne to pay off in accordance with ACNB signal T.O.C. 100224Z, September.

Material:-

Engine Room - Further trouble was experienced with both boilers during the month, it was necessary to plug 5 tubes in Townsville. Ship is at present steaming on a Boiler Pressure of 175 instead of 200 lbs/sq inch.
Main engines have performed satisfactorily, auxiliaries are in urgent need of refit.

A/S, Radar and upper deck departments are all satisfactory.
L.L. Batteries have improved slightly.

General:-

Ship's Company are eagerly awaiting paying off and long leave. Their conduct and health are satisfactory.

FIGURES FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER, 1945.

Distance steamed.....	3333.7 miles
Hours under way	468 hours
Average distance per ton of fuel	11.531 miles
Average speed	7.123 knots.

TOTAL FIGURES SINCE COMMISSIONING ON 30th APRIL, 1943.

Total distance steamed.,.....	80645.8 miles
Total hours under way	8524.3 hours
Average speed	9.461 knots.

(SIGNED) GOURLAY
Lieutenant, R.A.N.R.
COMMANDING OFFICER.

C.3/195

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

Submitted for the information of the Naval Board, in accordance with Navy Office Letter 053605 of 23 October, 1944.

Commander, R.A.N.
Naval Officer-in-Charge, Port Melbourne.

12th November, 1945.

27/10 27/11

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CONFIDENTIAL
SECRET

2026/7/ 1480

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY.
MINUTE PAPER

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

September 1945

S.N.B. *27/10*

2 N.M. *29/10*

3 N.M.
D. of P. *14/11*

D.R.M.

D.N.I. (Later)

Ops. (N) *28/11*

N.5. *12/11*

D.E. (N) *22/11*

D.O.T.M. *23/11*

D.N.M.S. *26/11*

H.P.B. *30/11*

N.A.2 N.M. *30/11*

N.5. *12/11*

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

D.N.I.
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Miss Finch

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CONFIDENTIAL

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY.
MINUTE PAPER.

2026/7/1480

SUBJECT:

Amas "Coctamundra" Report of Proceedings September 1945

~~D.P.S~~ *Vuu* 17/10

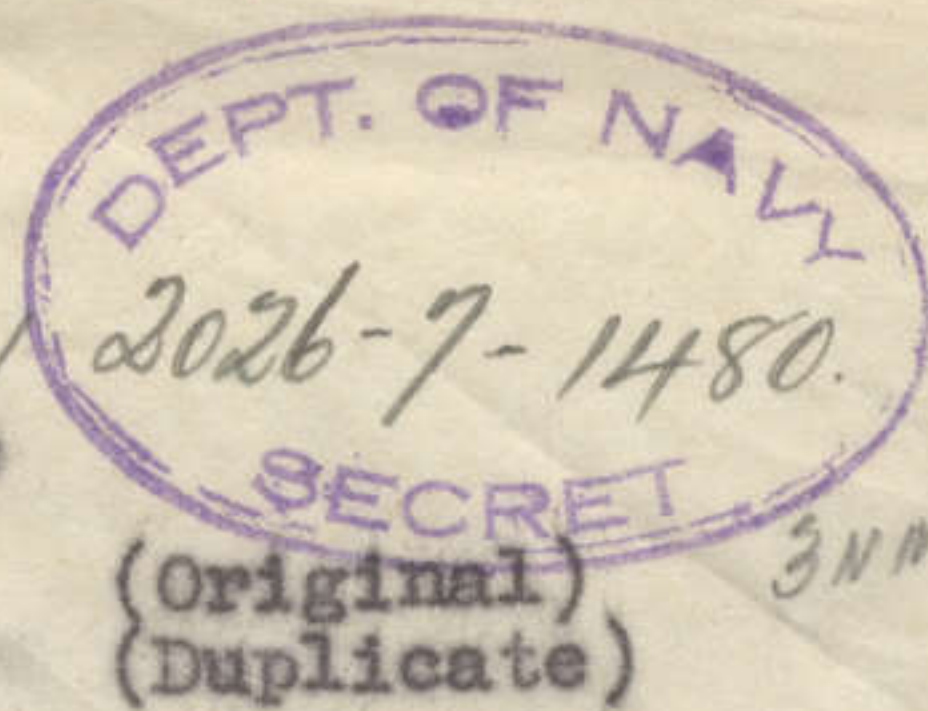
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~~DTSR~~ *RP23/10*

~~D.P.S~~ *23/10*

~~D.P.S~~ *27/10*
DENS

~~1st NM~~ *25/10*

~~25/10~~
27/10 K



From: COMMANDING OFFICER, H.M.A.S. "COOTAMUNDRA"

To: THE NAVAL OFFICER IN CHARGE, MOLUCCAS.
THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVAL BOARD.

(Original)
(Duplicate)

Date: 1st October, 1945

Reference No. 384/33/39

Subject: REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR SEPTEMBER, 1945.

Submitted:

Report of Proceedings for H.M.A. Ship under my command for the month of September, 1945.

1st - 8th was spent anchored at Morotai, routine maintenance being carried out. Weighed P.M. 8th and proceeded in company with "Glenelg", "Junee" and "Latrobe" to Ambon. Voyage was without incident H.M.A. Ships arriving and securing to wharf at 1400I, 10th. Fifteen Australian, nine American and six Dutch ex-Ps.O.W. were embarked for passage to Morotai, and in addition one Japanese prisoner, Ike Ouchi was carried. Ships proceeded in company P.M. the same day. A.M. 11th trouble was experienced with starboard boiler which was shut down, Ship proceeded independently on one boiler, arriving at Morotai 1000I, 12th. 12th - 21st was spent anchored in Morotai, routine maintenance and painting of ship being carried out. Repairs were effected to starboard boiler. Lieutenant K.R. Gourlay, R.A.N.R. relieved Lieutenant Commander H.J. Hull R.A.N.R. in command A.M. 21st, Lieutenant Commander H.J. Hull being discharged to H.M.A.S. "Deloraine" in command. P.M. 21st three Army Officers and 100 troops together with stores etc. were embarked for passage to Ambon. Proceeded 1600I in company with "Rockhampton", "Latrobe" and "Junee". Voyage was without incident, H.M.A. Ships securing to wharf at Ambon 0900 23rd. H.M.A.S. "Glenelg" had arrived the previous day and assumed duties of Mobile Port Directorate. Occupation troops were disembarked A.M. with the help of Japanese working parties for unloading stores. A combined armed guard from all ships was landed P.M. for the proclamation by Brigadier Steele at 1600I. Officers and Ship's Companies were also present at the ceremony as spectators. At 1800I "Rockhampton" "Latrobe", "Junee" and "Cootamundra" proceeded for Morotai, arriving A.M. 25th. "Cootamundra" weighed 1600I, 26th and with the paying off pennant flying, slowly circled all H.M.A. Ships at anchor, after which H.M.A.S. "Leilani" was taken in tow and course was set for Ambon, the first stage of the voyage to Melbourne for paying off in accordance with ACNB's signal T.O.O. 100224z September. Voyage to Ambon was uneventful, ship arriving A.M. 29th. Fuel was obtained from H.M.A.S. "BOWEN" and ship sailed P.M. for Thursday Island.

MATERIAL Engine Room - Both boilers are showing distortion on fire row tubes. Main Engines are running satisfactorily; auxiliaries as well as can be expected observing long time out of refit. Southern Cross Diesel has not been operative since April owing to spares being unobtainable
A/S - Satisfactory
Radar - Satisfactory
Gunnery - Satisfactory
Electrical - L.L. Batteries are in poor condition.
Upper Deck - Satisfactory.

HM.

10

GENERAL

Morale is high with prospect of long leave and paying off after 15 months in forward areas.

All concerned have carried out their duties in a cheerful manner.

In particular Petty Officer C.A.N. South O/N PA.1380 who ~~was~~ has served in "Cootarundra" since commissioning has carried out the duties of coxswain with zeal and ability.

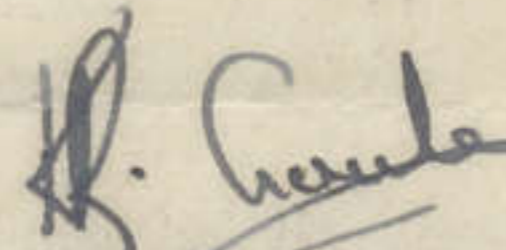
The conduct of the Ship's Company remains very good and the health satisfactory.

FIGURES FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER, 1945

Distance steamed	2,702.6 miles
Hours under way ..	266 hours
Average distance per ton of fuel	10.514 miles
Average speed for month	10.16 knots

TOTAL FIGURES SINCE COMMISSIONING ON 30TH APRIL, 1943.

Total distance steamed	77,312.1 miles
Total hours under way	8,056.3 hours
Average speed	9.596 knots.



Lieutenant R.A.N.R.
COMMANDING OFFICER.

7/10 3/10

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
~~SECRET~~

RECEIVED
21 1945
D. O. T. M.

2026/7/ 1480

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY.

MINUTE PAPER

SUBJECT: H.M.A.S. "Coofamundra" REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS.
August 1945.

S.N.F. Mrs 7/10

2 N.M. H.A.S. 8/10

3 N.M. 8/10

D. of E. 7/10

D.R. 10/10

D.N.I. N.S. 19/10

Ops. (N) 19/10

H.S. 20/10

D.E. (N) 23/10

D.O.T.M. 20/10

D.N.S. m 24/10

H.P. 21/10

N.A.P.N.M.

N.S. 11

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

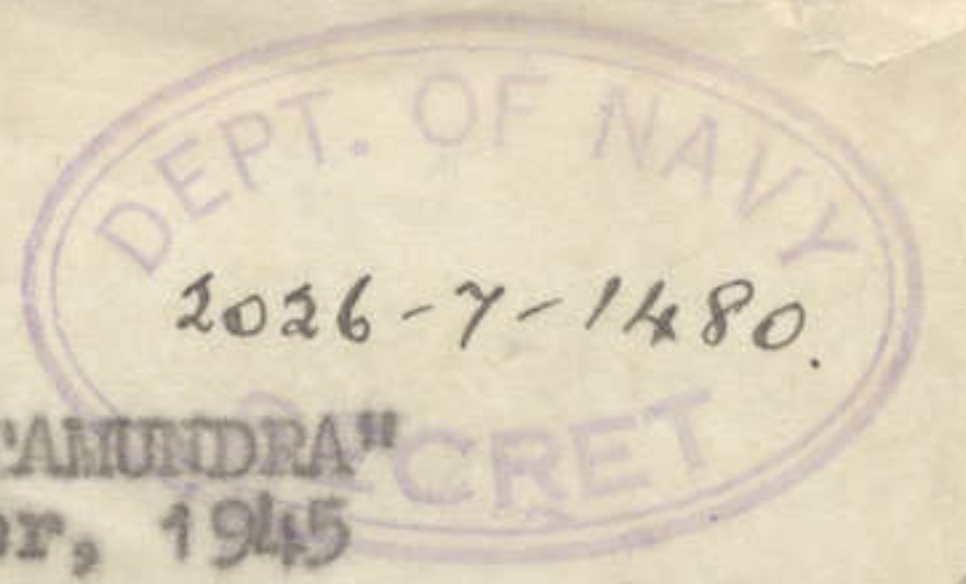
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D.N.M.S. BRANCH
OCT 1945
NAVY OFFICE

Duplicate



H.M.A.S. "COOTAMUNDRA"
12th September, 1945

ASK. BY. 12.1.207
25 SEP 1945

The Secretary,
Naval Board,
Melbourne.

Inbuculation
2/10/45

HN 2119145
DPS 25/9

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS - MONTH OF AUGUST, 1945.

The following Report of Proceedings for the month of August, 1945, is forwarded in accordance with C.C.N.O. 97 of 1945.

At the commencement of the period under report ship was at Sorido Lagoon, Biak.
At 1809, 2nd August ship proceeded and carried out an A/S patrol round U.S.S. "Admiral Hughes" at anchor off Sorido Lagoon.

3rd - 5th August. A/S patrol was discontinued at 1515 on 3rd August and after picking up orders from Port Director, Biak, Ship proceeded to Mios Woendi for fuel. On completion of fuelling at 2018 ship proceeded on passage to Morotai. Ship entered Morotai harbour at 1627 on 5th August after an uneventful voyage and secured alongside R.F.A. "Bishopdale" to obtain fuel.

6th - 15th August. At 0800, 6th August, slipped from "Bishopdale" and proceeded to anchorage. At 1654 the same day proceeded to position near northern entrance to Morotai harbour and came to anchor and commenced a stationary A/S listening watch. At 1804, 7th August proceeded and secured alongside "Platypus" to carry out repairs to main engines. Ship slipped from "Platypus" at 1515, 9th August and after fuelling came to anchor near southern entrance to Morotai harbour and commenced a stationary A/S listening watch. The following day, at 1645 ship was relieved by "Inverell" and ship proceeded alongside "Merkur" to embark stores. At 2217 cast off and proceeded to Southern Entrance to Morotai harbour and commenced a stationary A/S listening watch.

15th - 19th August. At 1817, 15th August proceeded on passage to Ambon in company with "Latrobe" and "Inverell" to pick up Allied Prisoners of War. At 0712, 17th August rendezvous was made with "Bundaberg" (S.O.), "Barcoo" and "Burdekin" off Ambon. The operation was cancelled after negotiations with Japanese were unsuccessful. At 0800 proceeded to Kelang in company with "Bundaberg" and "Burdekin" to obtain fuel. At 1736 slipped from "Burdekin" and proceeded in company with "Bundaberg" on passage to Morotai. Ships in company entered Morotai harbour at 0608, 19th August after an uneventful voyage.

20th - 26th August. At Morotai carrying out boiler cleaning and general maintenance work.

M. H. ...

M. H. ...

D.N.1
(N.A.R.O.)*

[Signature]

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Венерателни извешаване мојк
30.11 - 20.12 1980. Уједно саопштава оне резултате испитивања

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ВЕОМКИ ОВ БУСВЕДИНОС - НОВИ ОВ УПОРАТ. 1980.

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20.12.1980
VEK BA 1-304

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15.11.1980
H. H. V. S. "COOLVINDIV"

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27th - 31st August. At 1700 proceeded to convoy U.S.S. "James Corrigan" to position 05° 23' N; 124° 14' E. At 2000 the following day detached from convoy and set course for return to Morotai.

At 0642, 30th August entered Morotai harbour and came to anchor after having obtained fuel from R.F.A. "Bishopdale".

GENERAL REMARKS.

The general behaviour of the Ship's Company has been very good indeed during the past month.

The mail service was rather poor during the latter part of the month.

The health of the Ship's Company has been very good.

FIGURES FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST, 1945.

Distance steamed	2,444.7 miles
Hours under way	222.5 hours
Average distance per ton of fuel	9.978 miles
Average speed for month	10.987 knots.

TOTAL FIGURES SINCE COMMISSIONING ON 30TH APRIL, 1943.

Total distance steamed	74,609.5 miles
Total hours under way	7,790.3 hours
Average speed	9.577 knots

R. Bull

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

547B

2026-7-1480.

CONFIDENTIAL

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY.

MINUTE PAPER.

3648....

25/9

SUBJECT: A.M.S. "Costamundra" Report of Proceedings. August. 1945.

D.P.S. ~~✓~~ 26/9.

D.T.S. ~~✓~~ R-110

D.O.P. ~~✓~~ 3/10

D.C.N.S. ~~✓~~

1st Lt. W.M. ~~✓~~ 11/10

~~✓~~

DEPT OF NAVY
SECRET

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H.M.A.S. "COOTAMUNDRA"
12th September, 1945

RM 1210"

105 17
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RECEIVED
21 SEP 1945
CONFIDENTIAL RECORDS

The Secretary,
Naval Board,
Melbourne.

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS - MONTH OF AUGUST, 1945.

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3rd - 5th August. A/S patrol was discontinued at 1515 on 3rd August and after picking up orders from Port Director, Biak, Ship proceeded to Mios Woendi for fuel. On completion of fuelling at 2018 ship proceeded on passage to Morotai. Ship entered Morotai harbour at 1627 on 5th August after an uneventful voyage and secured alongside R.F.A. "Bishopdale" to obtain fuel.

6th - 15th August. At 0800, 6th August, slipped from "Bishopdale" and proceeded to anchorage. At 1654 the same day proceeded to position near northern entrance to Morotai harbour and came to anchor and commenced a stationary A/S listening watch. At 1804, 7th August proceeded and secured alongside "Platypus" to carry out repairs to main engines. Ship slipped from "Platypus" at 1515, 9th August and after fuelling came to anchor near southern entrance to Morotai harbour and commenced a stationary A/S listening watch. The following day, at 1645 ship was relieved by "Inverell" and ship proceeded alongside "Mercur" to embark stores. At 2217 cast off and proceeded to Southern Entrance to Morotai harbour and commenced a stationary A/S listening watch.

15th - 19th August. At 1817, 15th August proceeded on passage to Ambon in company with "Latrobe" and "Inverell" to pick up Allied Prisoners of War. At 0712, 17th August rendezvous was made with "Bundaberg" (S.O.), "Barcoo" and "Burdekin" off Ambon. The operation was cancelled after negotiations with Japanese were unsuccessful. At 0800 proceeded to Kelang in company with "Bundaberg" and "Burdekin" to obtain fuel. At 1736 slipped from "Burdekin" and proceeded in company with "Bundaberg" on passage to Morotai. Ships in company entered Morotai harbour at 0608, 19th August after an uneventful voyage.

20th - 26th August. At Morotai carrying out boiler cleaning and general maintenance work.

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

4/16/10

M. Kelly
19.8.65

2026/7/1210.

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4 OCT 1945
D.O.T.M.

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY.

MINUTE PAPER

SUBJECT Report of Proceedings H.M.A.S. "Cootamundra" REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS.

S.N.B. *h-379*

July 1945.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY.
MINUTE PAPER.

2026/7/12/10

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~~1/20/8~~ SUBJECT: Amas "Cooramundra" Report of Proceedings July 1945.

~~D.P.S~~ 1/20/8

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DEPT. OF NAVY

2026-7-1210

H.M.A.S. "COOTAMUNDRA"
9th August, 1945.

SECRET

The Secretary,
Naval Board,
Melbourne.



REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS - MONTH OF JULY, 1945.

The following Report of Proceedings for the month of July, 1945 is forwarded in accordance with C.C.N.O. 97 of 1945.

At the commencement of the period under report, ship was in convoy on passage to Balikpapan with A.S.R. craft 917 and 919 in tow. Convoy comprised of L.S.Ts. 466 (C.T.U. 78.2.35), 911, 471, 910, 171, 579, 753, 474, 181, 456, 245, 470, 714, 673, 66, 206, and 462 and S.Ss. "Clarence Matson", "Francis Wardwell", "Balikpapan", "Banshee", "Stephen Benet", "Julien Deiboque", "Creon" and F.Ss 361. Escorts were U.S.Ss. "Frazier" (Com Des Ron 14), "Bailey", "Waller" and "Chaffee".

Convoy arrived off Balikpapan at 1030, 3rd July after an uneventful voyage and came to anchor.

At 0830 the following morning ship proceeded and commenced an A/S patrol off the anchorage.

At 1645 on 6th July ship was relieved on patrol and came to anchor.

The following afternoon ship fuelled from U.S.S. "Chepachet".

8th - 12th July. At 1650 on 8th July vessel proceeded with convoy comprising A.Ms. 296 and 298, Y.Ms. 46, 49, 51, 52, 53, L.C.Is. 73, 230, 331, 337, 635, and F.P. 47.

At 0630, 10th July A.Ms. 296, 298, Y.Ms. 51 and F.P. 47 detached in position 02° 30' 00" N; 121° 00' 00" E and proceeded to Subic. Ship proceeded with remainder of convoy to Morotai, arriving there at 0630 on 12th July.

Lieutenant R.P. Jeffreys, R.A.N.V.R. joined the ship on 12th July for First Lieutenant's duties as relief for Lieutenant E.S. Smith, R.A.N.R.(S).

13th - 18th July. At Morotai carrying out boiler cleaning, general maintenance work and painting ship.

19th - 26th July. At 0755, 20th July ship anchored near northern entrance to Morotai harbour and commenced a stationary A/S listening watch.

At 0855, 23rd July "Kapunda" assumed A/S listening watch and ship returned to anchorage.

On the afternoon of 26th July the Ship's team played "Platypus" at Rugby. The result was 3 - Nil, in favour of "Platypus".

27th - 31st July. At 1740, 27th July weighed and proceeded in company with "Bundaberg" (S.O.E.) to escort S.S. "Suva" to position 00° 13' 00" S 135° 48' 00" E, North of Bisk.

2/8 H
2/8 M

At 0400, 30th July S.S. "Suva" detached and ship proceeded in company with "Bundaberg".

At 1627 that afternoon ship entered Mios Woendi lagoon and fuelled ~~fr~~ from U.S.S. "Villa Lobos".

At 0915 the following morning ship cast off and proceeded to Biak, coming to anchor off Sorido Lagoon at 1200.

GENERAL REMARKS.

The general behaviour of the Ship's Company continues to be very good.

|| The mail service leaves little to be desired.

There have been few opportunities of landing recreation parties during the month.

|| The regular invitation to motion pictures aboard "Platypus" and "Mombah" have been much appreciated.

The health of the Ship's Company for the month under report has been very good indeed.

FIGURES FOR THE MONTH OF JULY, 1945.

Distance steamed	2,841.1 miles
Hours under way	291.5 hours
Average distance per ton of fuel	9.417 miles
Average speed for month	9.746 knots.

TOTAL FIGURES SINCE COMMISSIONING ON 30TH APRIL, 1943.

Total distance steamed	72,164.8 miles
Total hours under way	7,564.8 hours
Average speed	9.539 knots.

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

1210

Royal Australian Navy. *Dep.*

DEPT. OF NAVY
2026-7-1210
SECRET

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE

No. **NG 269/26**

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INIT. *[Signature]*

MS 12/11/44

Office of N.O.I.C.
New Guinea. Madang
27th July, 1945.

*In circulation
MS 27/8/45.*

The Secretary,
Naval Board,
MELBOURNE.

H. S. 6/8.

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

Submitted for the information of the Naval Board.

*DNI (N.H.R.O.)**

[Signature]
A/Commander R.A.N.
for Naval Officer in Charge
New Guinea
A.O.D.

[Signature]
[Signature]
H.S. 6/8.

3/8 E.

DEPT. OF NAVY
1-1210
SECRET

General Australian Navy

NG 229/28

Office of N.O.I.C.
New Guinea, Madang
27th July, 1945

The Secretary,
Naval Board,
MELBOURNE.

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

Submitted for the information of the Naval Board.

A. O. D.
New Guinea
for Naval Officer in Charge
A/Commander R.A.N.

H. 2. 2/8

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2 copies

269/26

H.M.A.S. "COOTAMUNDRA"
5th July, 1945.

The Secretary,
Naval Board,
Melbourne.

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS - MONTH OF JUNE, 1945.

The following Report of Proceedings for the month of June, 1945 is submitted in accordance with C.C.N.O. 97 of 1943.

1st - 3rd June - At 0905, 1st June proceeded in company with "Stawell" to investigate report of submarine sighting north of Biak.

At 1722 the following day rendezvous was made with "Bathurst" and "Junee" and search was conducted. Numerous large floating tree trunks were sighted in the vicinity and it is thought that these may have been mistaken for a submarine at a distance.

At 2230 search was abandoned and ships in company proceeded to Biak.

At 0955, 3rd June detached and proceeded to Mios Woendi in company with "Junee".

Ship entered Mios Woendi Lagoon at 1234 and came to anchor after fuelling from "Villa Lobos".

4th - 7th June. At 0800, 4th June weighed and proceeded to Biak, coming to anchor off Sorido Lagoon at 1025 that morning.

At 1503 the following day ship proceeded to rendezvous with "Bunbury" and "Bowen" and carry out search for submarine reported near Asia Islands.

At 1423, 6th June rendezvous was made with "Bunbury" and "Bowen" and search was commenced. Instructions to abandon search were received and ship proceeded to Morotai.

It is considered, as in previous sighting report, that a large floating tree trunk was mistaken for a submarine.

Ship entered Morotai Harbour at 1142, 7th June, fuelled from "Bishopdale" and came to anchor.

8th - 9th June. At 1529, 8th June ship secured alongside V.S.I.S. "Mercur" and embarked fresh provisions and stores. On completion of storing at 1745 cast off and came to anchor near northern entrance to Morotai Harbour and commenced a stationary A/S listening watch.

At 0910, 9th June proceeded out of harbour in company with "Junee" to carry out practice A.A. firing with short range weapons at drogue target.

On completion of firings ship entered harbour at 1245 and came to anchor near northern entrance to harbour and resumed stationary A/S listening watch.

10th - 15th June. At 1603, 10th June ship proceeded to anchorage.

At 1900 that evening proceeded on passage to Mios Woendi.

Ship entered Mios Woendi Lagoon at 0638, 13th June after an uneventful voyage and came alongside U.S.S. "Villa Lobos" for fuel.

At 0927 proceeded to Biak and came to anchor off Sorido Lagoon at 1218.

At 0600, 15th June proceeded to carry out exercise L.L. sweep. On completion vessel returned to Sorido Lagoon at 1125 and came to anchor.

16th - 27th June. At 1200, 16th June proceeded to escort S.Ss. "Joe Fellowes" and "Howell Lykes" to Morotai.

Ship entered Morotai harbour at 0712, 18th June after an uneventful voyage and came to anchor after having fuelled from "Bishopdale".

At 1155, 20th June proceeded on passage to Mios Woendi arriving ~~there~~ there at 0923, 22nd June.

At 0630 the following morning weighed and proceeded to Biak and came to anchor at 0930.

At 1800 vessel proceeded to escort U.S.S. "William Seward" to Morotai.

Ship entered Morotai harbour at 0647, 26th June and came to anchor.

28th- 30th June. At 1500, 28th June weighed and proceeded out of harbour with A.S.R. craft 917 and 919 in tow. By 1600 formed with convoy comprising L.S.Ts. 466, (C.T.U. 78.2.35), 911, 471, 910, 171, 579, 753, 474, 181, 456, 245, 470, 714, 673, 66, 206 and 462 and S.Ss. "Clarence Matson", "Francis Wardwell", "Balikpapan", "Banshee" "Stephen Benet", "Julien Duboque" "Creon" and F.S. 361. Escorts were U.S.S. "Frazier" (Com. Des. Ron. 14), "Bailey", "Waller" and "Chaffee".

Ships in company then proceeded on passage to Balikpapan.

GENERAL REMARKS.

The general behaviour of the ship's company has been very good. The health of the ship's company has been excellent. This has been greatly assisted by the plentiful supplies of fresh provisions during the month under report.

One Leading Seaman and two Able Seamen were examined professionally and passed for Petty Officer and Leading Seaman respectively.

FIGURES FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE, 1945.

Distance steamed	4165.5 miles
Hours under way	392.5 hours
Average distance per ton fo fuel	10.68 miles
Average speed for month	10.613 knots

TOTAL FIGURES SINCE COMMISSIONING ON 30th APRIL, 1943.

Total distance steamed	69323.7 miles
Total hours under way	7273.3 hours
Average speed	9.531 knots

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

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RESTRICTED

26 JUN 1945

Royal Australian Navy.

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DEPT. OF NAVY
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SECRET

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE

No. NG 269/26

Office of N.O.I.C.
New Guinea. Madang.
22nd June, 1945.

*In circulation
with
30/6/45*

The Secretary,
Naval Board,
MELBOURNE.

H.M.A.S. "COOTAMUNDRA" - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS - MAY 1945.

Submitted for the information of the Naval Board.

[Handwritten Signature]

A/Captain R.A.N.
Naval Officer in Charge
New Guinea.

H. [unclear]
D.N.I (N.A.R.O.)
N/S [unclear]

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REGISTERED

Royal Australian Navy

SECRET
10/1/1915

Office of N.O.I.C.
New Guinea, Madang.
22nd June, 1915.

The Secretary,
Naval Board,
PERTH.

R.A.N. "COORAMBRA" - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS - MAY 1915.

Submitted for the information of the Naval Board.

[Handwritten signature]

A Captain R.A.N.
Naval Officer in Charge
New Guinea.

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The Secretary,
Naval Board,
Melbourne.



H.M.A.S. "COOTAMUNDRA"
4th June, 1945.

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS - MONTH OF MAY, 1945.

The following Report of Proceedings for the month of May, 1945 is submitted in accordance with C.C.N.O. 97 of 1943.

At the commencement of period under report ship was in company with H.M.A.Ss. "Stawell" and "Cowra" on passage from Biak to Morotai escorting S.Ss. "Alfred M. Lund", "Charles Russel", "Thomas Cooley", "Luna", "Luther Hurd" and U.S.S. "General McRae. At 0600 1st May, "Cowra" and "General McRae" detached and proceeded to Morotai: Remainder of convoy entered harbour at 0900.

At 1100 ship came to anchor near southern entrance of harbour and commenced a stationary A/S listening watch.

2nd May. Maintaining stationary A/S listening watch.

A
At 0850 3rd May weighed and proceeded alongside H.M.A.S. "Hobart" for fuel and water. At 1400 cast off and proceeded to anchor off Navy Docks, Morotai.

4th-7th May. Ship proceeded at 1740, 4th May after having embarked one warrant officer U.S.N. for passage. By 1820 convoy consisting of 1 L.S.Ts. 673, 694, 1018, 806, 395, 740, 711, 1017, 942, 937, 912, 456, ~~and~~ 1016, 936, S.S. "Jefferson Davis", "John Dockveldt" and "Charles Walcott" was formed and proceeded on passage to Biak. Additional escorts were "Stawell" and "Latrobe". At 1500 6th May "Latrobe" screened L.S.Ts. 456 and 937 while they were stopped for engine repairs. On completion of repairs they proceeded independently. Ship proceeded to Mios Woendi Lagoon for fuel, entering harbour at 0736.

A Sonar contact had been obtained near the harbour entrance and at 1315 that afternoon ship proceeded to position near boom gate and commenced an A/S and Radar watch.

At 1700 watch was secured and ship proceeded to anchorage.

8th-9th May. At 1446 weighed and proceeded to Sorido Lagoon, Biak.

10th-13th May. At 1540, 10th May Commander Walsh R.A.N. and Lt. Commander Williamson R.A.N. embarked for passage and ship proceeded to Mios Woendi where they disembarked, ship cleared harbour again at 1810 and proceeded to join convoy consisting of S.Ss "Sea Cat", "John Ward", "Both", "Van Heutz", "Benj", "Peiscotto", "Star Knot" and F.S. 392, on passage to Morotai: Bathurst was additional escort. At 0600, 13th May convoy entered Morotai harbour after an uneventful voyage. Ship came to anchor near southern entrance to harbour at 1015 and commenced a stationary A/S listening watch.

14th-15th May. Maintaining stationary A/S listening watch.

16th-18th May. At 1545, 16th May left harbour in company with "Stawell" (S.O.E.) and "Bathurst". and formed convoy consisting of S.S. "John Ward", "Van Heutz", "John Alden" and "Both" and proceeded to Biak.

At 2359, 17th May ship detached in position $00^{\circ} 48'N$, $133^{\circ} 19'E$ and proceeded to Mios Woendi entering harbour at 1800, 18th May.

19th - 20th May. At 0645, 19th May ship proceeded to Biak and came to anchor off Sorido Lagoon and remained there the following day. Lieutenant Collins R.A.N. and eleven ratings were embarked at 1700 20th May for passage to Mototai.

21st-23rd May. At 0140, 21st May weighed and proceeded to escort F.Ss 174 and 352 to rendezvous with Leyte-bound convoy in position $03^{\circ} 00'N$; $137^{\circ} 30'E$.

At 1240 F.S. 352 developed engine trouble and returned to Biak. Rendezvous was made with Leyte convoy at 0620 on the 22nd May and ship proceeded to intercept Biak-Morotai convoy.

Later that day instructions were received to return to Biak and course was altered accordingly.

At 1120 23rd entered Mios Woendi Lagoon and fuelled from U.S.S. "Villa Lobos". On completion of fuelling ship proceeded to Biak where Lieutenant Hardacre R.A.N.V.R. joined the ship to take over the duties of A/S officer.

At 1830 joined "Stawell" (S.O.E.) and "Bathurst" escorting U.S.S. "Sea Bard" and H.M.A.S. "Po Yang" to Morotai.

24th-26th May. At 0940, 24th May "Bathurst" obtained an A/S contact and proceeded to attack. "Cootamundra" was instructed to take station ahead of convoy, while "Stawell" joined "Bathurst". "Bathurst" remained in the vicinity to carry out a further search and "Stawell" rejoined convoy at 1405.

At 0600, 26th May convoy entered Morotai harbour and ship proceeded alongside S.S. "Bishopdale" for fuel. Personnel borne for passage were disembarked.

On completion of fuelling ship secured alongside H.M.A.S. "BLATYPUS" at 1515 and commenced boiler cleaning.

Sub Lieutenant Copeland R.A.N.R. joined ship as additional officer.

27th-30th May. Alongside H.M.A.S. "Platypus" carrying out boiler cleaning.

Sub Lieutenant Trumble R.A.N.V.R. was discharged for passage to "Rushcutter" P.M. 30th May on being relieved as A/S officer.

31st May. 0840 cleared harbour and proceeded on passage to Biak. At 1050 a defect developed in the type 128c Asdic Set and ship returned to harbour. At 1505 came to anchor in Morotai harbour and commenced repairs which were completed by 2000 that evening.

GENERAL REMARKS.

The general behaviour of the Ship's Company has been very good.
The health of the Ship's Company leaves little to be desired. There was ~~no~~ case of hospitalisation during the month.

FIGURES FOR THE MONTH OF MAY, 1945.

Distance steamed	3,270.4 miles.
Hours under way	338.3 hours.
Average distance per ton of fuel.....	10.583 miles.
Average speed for month	9.667 knots.

TOTAL FIGURES SINCE COMMISSIONING ON 30th APRIL, 1943.

Total distance steamed	65,158.2 miles.
Total hours under way	6,880.8 hours.
Average speed	9.469 knots.



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

RESTRICTED

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ACK. BY. A.S. 1330Y

30 MAY 1945

INIT

Royal Australian Navy.

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE

No. NG =269/26

The Secretary,
Naval Board,
MELBOURNE.

Duplicate
DEPT. OF NAVY
2046. 7. 1210
SECRET

Office of N.O.I.C.
New Guinea, Madang.
27th May, 1945.

*In circulation
tho
2/6/45*

H.M.A.S. "COOTAMUNDRA" - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS - APRIL 1945.

Submitted for the information of the Naval Board.

*H. S. 16/6
D.N.I. (N.A.R.O.)
N.S.
16/6*

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

*~~Lt. A. C. Bennett~~
" Bennett
~~per lesson~~*

H S. 16/6.

1/6 G

Office of N.O.I.G.
New Guinea, Madang,
27th May, 1945.

Royal Australian Navy

MG = 269/26

MELBOURNE
Naval Board,
The Secretary,

H.M.A.S. "COCOTAMUDRA" - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS - APRIL 1945.

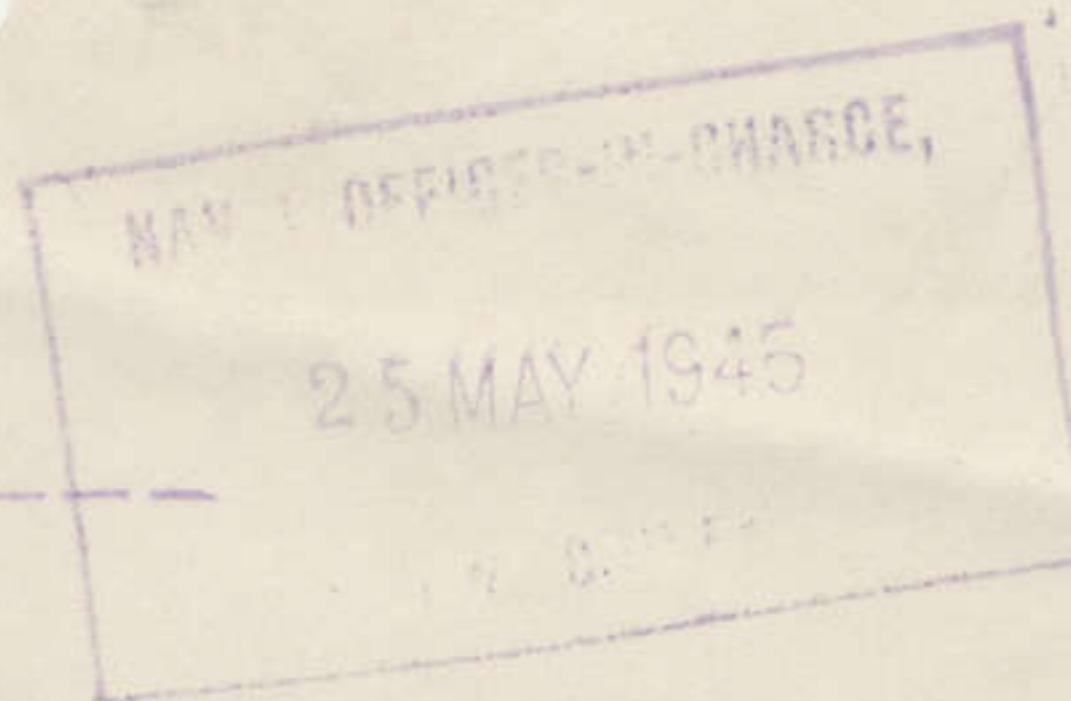
Submitted for the information of the Naval Board.

Naval Officer in Charge
New Guinea.
A/Captain R.A.N.

6/10

172/33/24

The Secretary,
Naval Board,
Melbourne.



H.M.A.S. "COOTAMUNDRA"
1st May, 1945.

289/26

REPORT OF PROCEEDING - MONTH OF APRIL, 1945.

The following Report of Proceeding for the month of April, 1945 is submitted in accordance with C.C.N.O. 97 of 1943.

1st - 3rd April. At the commencement of period under report ship was on passage from Amsterdam Island to Biak escorting L.S.Ts. 744, 673 and 569. At 1210, 1st April convoy was dispersed off Sorido Lagoon, Biak and vessel proceeded to Mios Woendi, entering harbour at 1440.

At 1457, 2nd April proceeded out of harbour and at 1721 ship anchored off Sorido Lagoon, Biak.

Ship remained at anchor off Sorido Lagoon on 3rd April.

4th - 7th April. At 1700, 4th April after having embarked 2 R.A.A.F. officers and 7 R.A.A.F. ratings, ship proceeded in company with "Rockhampton" (S.O.E.) to escort S.Ss. "Empire Hamble", "Clarence Roberts", "Van Heutz" and "William Henry" to Morotai. At 1927 the same evening an air raid "Red" alert was originated from Biak and the All Clear was given at 2007.

At 1940, 6th April convoy of three L.S.Ts. escorted by an American P.C. joined convoy which then proceeded at increased speed.

"Empire Hamble" could not maintain speed and dropped out of convoy and was escorted by "Cootamundra".

At 1435, 7th April entered Morotai harbour and came to anchor.

R.A.A.F. personnel were landed and vessel proceeded to northern entrance to harbour and commenced a stationary A/S listening watch.

8th - 9th April. Maintaining stationary A/S listening watch at northern entrance to Morotai harbour.

10th - 13th April. At 0936 ship was relieved by "Kapunda" and came to anchor off Navy Dock, Morotai after having fuelled from U.S.S. "Banshee".

At 1616 proceeded out of harbour to escort S.S. "Albert Kahn" to position 00° 18' S; 136° 00' E.

At 2000, 12th April "Albert Kahn" detached and ship proceeded to Mios Woendi.

At 0635, 13th April vessel entered Mios Woendi lagoon and came to anchor.

Engineer Lieutenant C.A. Dalrymple R.A.N.R.(S) rejoined ship from H.M.A.S. "Penguin" the same day.

14th - 17th April. At Mios Woendi carrying out Boiler Cleaning. Dry and fresh provisions and Canteen Stores were embarked from H.M.A.S. "Wilcannia" during the period.

18th - 22nd April. At 1009, 18th April Lieutenant Hinchliffe R.A.N. was embarked and vessel proceeded out of harbour to carry out depth charge practice. A ten-charge pattern was dropped in position $01^{\circ} 23' S$; $136^{\circ} 29' E$; ship then returned to harbour at 1140 and Lieutenant Hinchliffe disembarked. Vessel then proceeded to Biak and came to anchor off Sorido Lagoon at 1443.

At 1305 the following day ship proceeded in company with "Wagga" (S.O.E.) to escort U.S.A.T. "Atlantic City" to Morotai.

At 1015, 22nd April ship was instructed to detach and proceed to Morotai with all despatch to relieve escorts leaving the harbour that day.

At 1427 the same day vessel entered Morotai harbour and came to anchor near northern entrance. Stationary A/S listening watch was commenced.

23rd - 24th April. At Morotai carrying out stationary A/S listening watch.

25th - 30th April. At 1654 ship proceeded out of harbour in company with "Wagga" (S.O.E.) and "Kapunda" to escort S.Ss. "Lucius Lamarr", "Cyrus Brady" and "Stephen Field".

At 1136, 27th April convoy which was routed to Hollandia was dispersed in position $00^{\circ} 18' S$; $136^{\circ} 00' E$ and escorts proceeded.

At 1738 the same day escorts entered Mios Woendi lagoon and came to anchor after fuelling.

At 1040, 28th April ship received instructions to proceed and carry out A/S search inside and outside the harbour for contact obtained by sonar buoy. Lieutenant Hinchliffe R.A.N. embarked and ship proceeded. A search of the area proved negative and vessel entered harbour at 1435 and disembarked Lieutenant Hinchliffe. Vessel then proceeded to Biak and came to anchor off Sorido Lagoon at 1650.

At 1800 the same day convoy consisting of S.Ss. "Alfred M. Lunt", "Charles Russell", "Thomas Cooley", "Luna" and "Luther Hurd" was formed and proceeded to Morotai escorted by "Stawell" and "Cowra".

At 1911 ship weighed and proceeded with U.S.S. "General M^C Rae" to rendezvous with remainder of convoy. At 2052 convoy was overtaken and both ships took their stations and convoy proceeded.

GENERAL REMARKS.

During the month the ship's company exercised frequently at Action Stations and General Drill.

The general behaviour of the ship's company continues to be very good.

There has been little opportunity of landing recreation parties during the month.

The health of the ship's company has been excellent.

FIGURES FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, 1945.

Distance steamed3,168.1 Miles
Hours under way 338 Hours
Average distance per ton of fuel 12.015 Miles
Average speed for month 9.373 Knots.

TOTAL FIGURES SINCE COMMISSIONING ON 30th APRIL, 1943.

Total distance steamed61,877.8 Miles
Total hours under way6,542.5 Hours.
Average Speed 9.61 Knots.

H. Hull

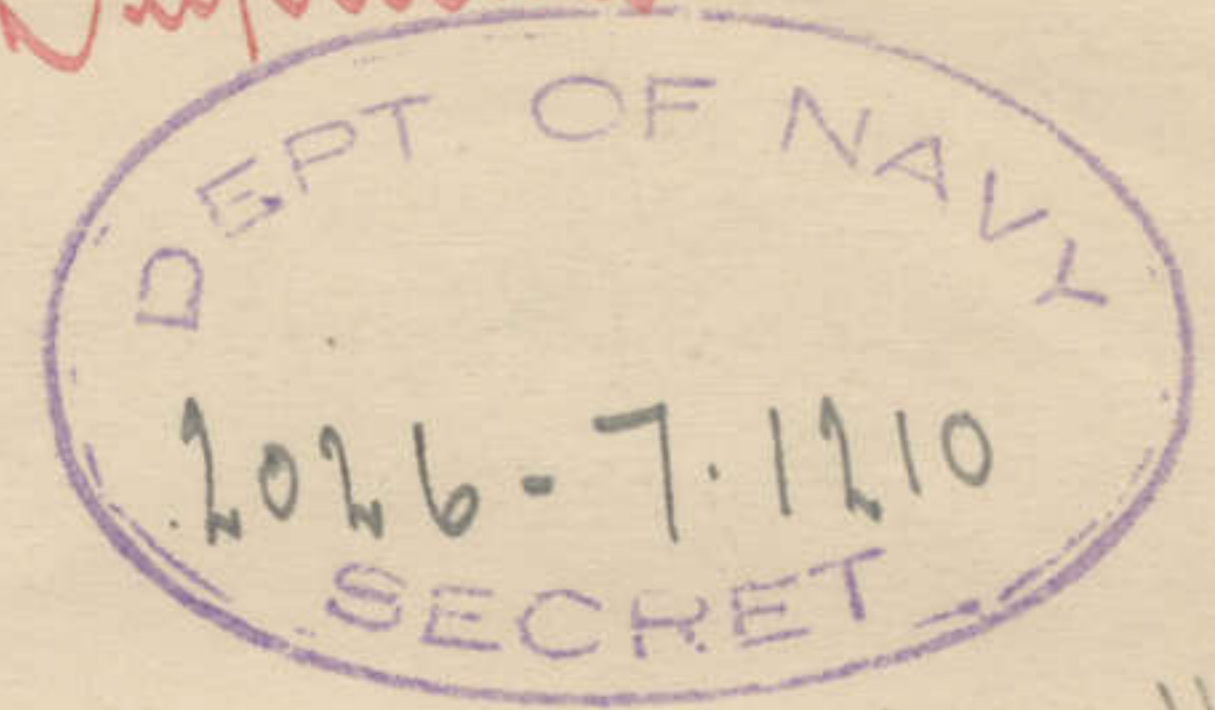
Lieutenant Commander R.A.N.R.
COMMANDING OFFICER.

St 4539

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Royal Australian Navy.

Duplicate



IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE

No. NG 269/26



The Secretary,
Naval Board,
MELBOURNE.

Office of N.O.I.C. Orig. HNL
New Guinea. Madang. 30/4
27th April, 1945.

In circulation
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H.M.A.S. "COOTAMUNDRA" - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS
MARCH 1945.

Submitted for the information of the Naval Board.

[Signature]

A/Captain R.A.N.
Naval Officer in Charge
New Guinea.

8/4/5

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

11/3 per NBS 7/5

12/11/45
Lt. Rankin
Lt. Mc. Becker 17/5
Mr. Lesson

H.S. 18/5

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Royal Australian Navy

10117-1110

Office of N.O.I.C. New Guinea, Madang, 27th April, 1945.

The Secretary, Naval Board, MELBOURNE.

M.M.A.S. "COOTUMORAN" - REPORT ON PROCEEDINGS
APRIL 1945.

Submitted for the information of the Naval Board.

[Signature]
A. Captain M.M.A.S.
Naval Officer in Charge
New Guinea.

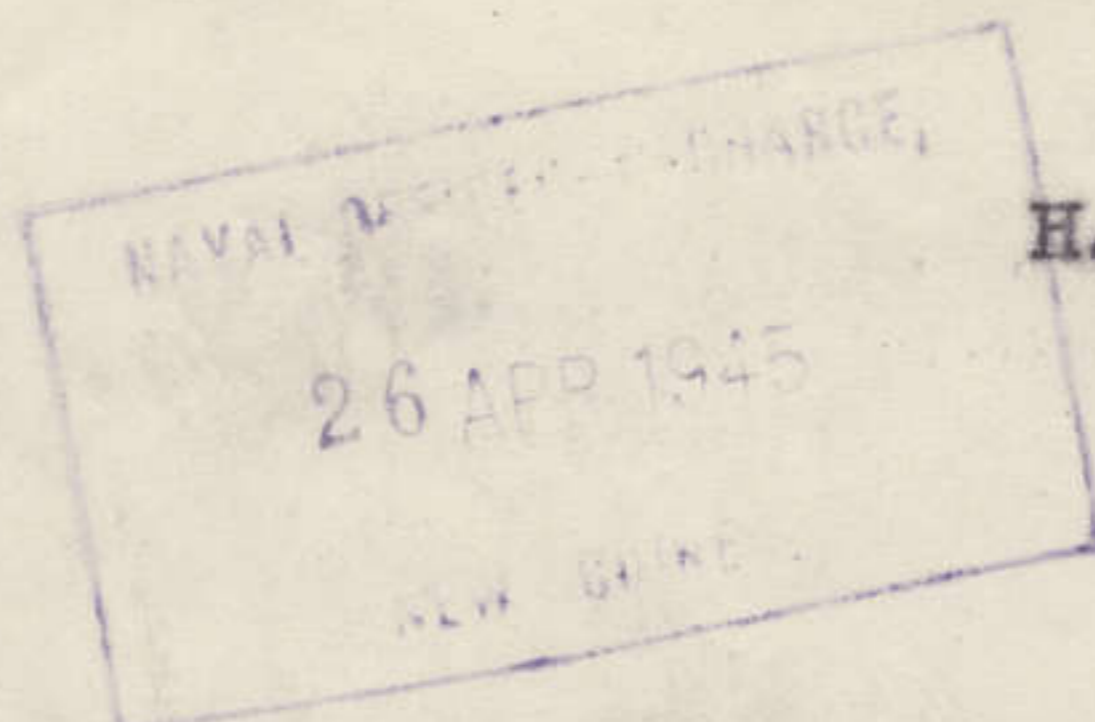
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M.M.A.S. (M.M.A.S.)

[Handwritten initials]

The Secretary,
Naval Board,
Melbourne.



269/V6 13/33/23
H.M.A.S. "COOTAMUNDRA"
4th April, 1945.

REPORT OF PROCEEDING - MONTH OF MARCH, 1945.

The following Report of Proceeding for the month of March, 1945 is submitted in accordance with C.C.N.O. 97 of 1943.

1st - 3rd March. At commencement of period under report vessel was on passage to Biak in company with "Kapunda" as escort to convoy comprising U.S.S. "Montezuma Castle", L.S.Ts. 1018, 911, 694, 740, 679 and L.S.M. 148. Convoy was dispersed off Sorido Lagoon at 0952, 3rd March. Ship then proceeded to Mios Woendi Lagoon, entering harbour at 1251 and came to anchor after obtaining fuel and water.

4th - 11th March. At Mios Woendi Lagoon carrying out boiler cleaning. Hands were also employed chipping and painting, and storing ship.

11th - 14th March. At 0621, 11th March vessel weighed and proceeded out of harbour. At 0915 came to anchor off Sorido Lagoon, Biak. At 1730 the same day weighed and proceeded in company with "Deloraine" and formed convoy consisting of S.Ss. "John Sedgwick", "Nicholas Simnett" and "Bontekoe". Convoy then proceeded on passage to Morotai. At 1900 instructions were received that S.S. "John Griffiths" was to join convoy and "Deloraine" was sent back to escort her. "Deloraine" rejoined convoy with "John Griffiths" at 0145 the following morning. At 0820, 14th March convoy entered Morotai harbour after an uneventful voyage. Ship came to anchor near Southern entrance to harbour and commenced stationary A/S listening watch.

15th - 16th March. Maintaining stationary A/S listening watch at southern entrance to Morotai harbour.

17th - 20th March. At 1624, 17th March, proceeded out of harbour in company with "Kapunda" to escort convoy G.B. 741, comprising S.Ss. "Isolator", "Silver Peak", "Bontekoe" and "Comara", to Biak. Speed of convoy was $6\frac{1}{2}$ knots. At 1855, 19th March speed was increased to 11 knots and "Isolator" and "Comara" were left to proceed independently.

Convoy was dispersed off Sorido Lagoon, Biak at 0635, 20th March and escorts proceeded to Mios Woendi Lagoon entering harbour at 0830.

21st - 24th March. At 0903, 21st March, weighed and proceeded to Biak in company with "Gladstone", while on passage the "L.L." sweep was streamed for exercise. Ship anchored off Sorido Lagoon Biak at 1350.

At 1630 the same day vessel proceeded in company with "Gladstone" (S.O.E.) to escort convoy comprising S.Ss. "Carlos Carillo", "Sea Ray", "Felix Hathaway", "Heber M. Creel" and "Gorgon" to Morotai.

Convoy entered Morotai harbour at 0810^{24th} after an uneventful passage.

Vessel came to anchor near northern entrance to Morotai harbour and commenced a stationary A/S listening watch.

25th - 28th March. At anchor near northern entrance to Morotai harbour maintaining stationary A/S listening watch.

29th - 31st March. At 0617, 29th March vessel proceeded and secured alongside U.S.S. "Heber M. Creel" at No. 2 Army Dock Morotai and embarked oil fuel and fresh water. Vessel cast off at 1145 and proceeded independently on passage to Amsterdam Island, arriving there at 1127, 30th March.

At 2115 the same day ship proceeded, under the instructions of P.D. Sansapor, to render assistance to U.S. Tug F 21, whose engines were broken down. Tug was located about four miles N.W. of Amsterdam Is. The tug was taken in tow and ship returned to harbour.

At 0800, 31st March, ship proceeded to escort L.S.Ts. 744, 673 and 569 to Biak.

At 1808 a doubtful echo was obtained and a probing charge was dropped. The echo was later classified as definitely non-submarine and ship rejoined the convoy.

GENERAL REMARKS.

During the month the ship's company were exercised frequently in General Drill.

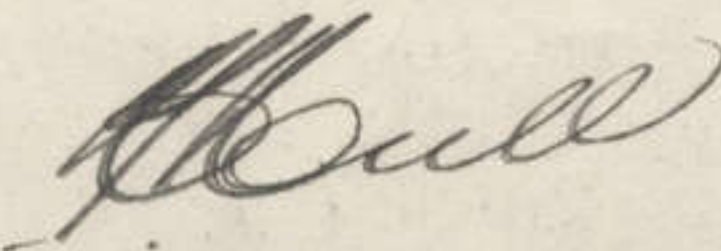
The general behaviour and health of the ship's company has been very good during the month.

FIGURES FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH FEBRUARY, 1945.

Distance steamed	2,778.0	miles.
Hours under way	290.5	hours
Average distance per ton of fuel	10.775	miles
Average speed for month	9.563	knots.

TOTAL FIGURES SINCE COMMISSIONING ON 30th APRIL, 1943.

Total distance steamed	58,709.7	miles
Total hours under way	6,204.5	hours.
Average speed	9.46	knots.


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

6/5

270



2026/7/ 1310.

SECRET RESTRICTED

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

MINUTE PAPER

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

S.N.B. *1/10/45*

2.N.M. *1/11/45*

3 N.M. *1/11/45*

D. of P. *1/11/45*

D.P.M. *1/11/45*

D.N.I. *1/11/45*

Ops (N) *1/11/45*

N.S. *1/11/45*

D.E. (N) *1/11/45*

D.O.T.M. *1/11/45*

D.N.M.S. *1/11/45*

H. B.B. *1/11/45*

N.A.2.N.M. *1/11/45*

N.5. *1/11/45*

D.N.I. (N.H.R.O.) *1/11/45*

St Parker 10/6

St McBest 10/6

Mrs Shanon H.S. 10/6

75R 1/11/45

8/5



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16. [Faint, illegible text]

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~~RESTRICTED~~

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY.

MINUTE PAPER.

2026/7/1210

3044.

SUBJECT: HMAS "Cooramundra" Report of Proceedings February 1915.

~~DPS~~ *Wu* 24/3

~~DTSR~~ *Wu* 28/3

~~DoD~~ *Wu* 2/4

~~DCNS~~

~~ISTNM~~ *Wu* 2/4

~~N5~~ *Wu* 27/3/15

RESTRICTED
SECRET

ACK. BY. A.S. 1330Y

20 MAR 1945

INIT. *[Signature]*

The Secretary,
Naval Board,
Melbourne.

1460 ✓
H.M.A.S. "COOTAMUNDRA"
1st March, 1945.

DEPT. OF NAVY
2026-7-1460
SECRET

RP 81/33/22

H.N. 17-11.44

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS - MONTH OF FEBRUARY, 1945.

The following Report of Proceedings for the month of February, 1945 is submitted in accordance with C.C.N.O. 97 of 1943.

1st - 3rd February. Ship remained at anchor off Navy Dock, Morotai Harbour on 1st February. During the afternoon an Australian Rules football team was landed to play 30 Squadron R.A.A.F. The score resulted 11-13 to 3-3 in favour of the R.A.A.F. The ships company invited the opposing team to supper aboard that evening.

At 1015, 2nd February "Cootamundra" relieved "Rockhampton" on stationary A/S listening watch at the N.W. entrance to Morotai harbour.

3rd - 6th February. At 0800, 3rd February "Gladstone" took over A/S watch and ship proceeded and came to anchor off Navy Dock. At 1815 ship proceeded in company with "Lithgow" and "Rockhampton" to escort S.Ss. "Mexico". "Ludington" and "Pulpit Rock" to Biak. At 1640 5th February S.Ss. "Mexico" and "Ludington" detached and proceeded independently.

S.S. "Pulpit Rock" was detached off Sorido Lagoon, Biak at 0350 the following day and escorts proceeded to Mios Woendi, entering harbour at 0648.

7th - 8th February. Ship remained at Mios Woendi and carried out repairs and maintenance work.

9th February. At 0952, 9th February ship cleared harbour and proceeded on passage to Hollandia. At 1350 the following day vessel entered Humboldt Bay and came to anchor after having obtained fuel from U.S.S. "Clyde".

HN
"Cootamundra" proceeded at 0915, 12th February and relieved "Townsville" on A/S patrol off Humboldt Bay. Patrol was continued until 1230 the following day when "Katoomba" took over those duties and ship entered harbour.

At 1630, 14th February, after being relieved by "Colac", ship proceeded in company with "Broome" on passage to Mios Woendi. At 1404 the following afternoon "Cootamundra" detached off Mios Woendi and proceeded to Sorido Lagoon, Biak.

16th - 23rd February. Ship remained at anchor off Sorido Lagoon on the 16th February.

22/3M
At 1445 the following day Lieutenant Wright U.S.N. (Port Director, Biak) was embarked and ship proceeded to Mios Woendi, entering

harbour at 1700. Lieutenant Wright was landed and vessel came to anchor after fuelling from U.S.S. "Victoria".
At 1300, 18th February "Condenseritis" was reported to have developed. At the time ship was obtaining fresh water from "Mombah". "Bundaberg" towed ship back to anchorage. The defect which was found to be in the port condenser, was made good by 2000 the following day.
At 0730, 20th February ship weighed and proceeded to Biak. At 0850 "Condenseritis" was again reported and ship returned to Mios Woendi, entering harbour at 1012. The fault was found to be in the starboard condenser this time.
Ship weighed at 1515, 21st February and proceeded to Biak, coming to anchor off Sorido Lagoon at 1820.
At 2010 the same day "Cootamundra" and "Kapunda" weighed and proceeded with U.S.S. "Montesuma Castle" with launch in tow and YP 236. Rendezvous was made with "Deloraine" and 16 L.S.Ts at 2045 and convoy proceeded.
At 1020, 22nd February "Deloraine" and 10 L.S.Ts detached and proceeded to Sansapor.

24th - 28th February. At 0825 24th February convoy entered Morotai harbour after an uneventful voyage. At 1020 the same day "Cootamundra" relieved "Strahan" on stationary A/S listening watch at southern entrance to Morotai harbour.
At 1910, 25th February instructions were received from P.D. Morotai to set watch on D/F to pick up bearing of an S.O.S. message, first heard by shore station on 500 K/cs at 1902. Message was garbled. As our D/F set was out of operation "Kapunda" was instructed to set watch. No bearings were obtained.
At 2215 a message was intercepted by us on 500 K/cs from call signs N.X. to K.S.O.A.
At 0555 and 1425, 26th February S.O.S. signals were intercepted by shore station on 500 K/cs but no bearings could be obtained by D/F. A/S listening watch was maintained in this position until 1200, 28th February when ship was relieved by "Rockhampton".
At 1800, 28th February "Cootamundra" (S.O.E.) and "Kapunda" proceeded to escort L.S.Ts 1018 (Commodore), 694, 911, 679, 740, L.S.M. 148 and U.S.S. "Montezuma Castle" to Biak.
At 2025 an Asdic contact was obtained in position 1° 55'N, 128° 21'E off Morotai.
A probing charge was dropped and the echo was classified as non-sub.

GENERAL REMARKS.

The letter mail service has been very good although second class mail usually takes a long time to arrive and is frequently received in a damaged condition.

The general behaviour of the ship's company continues to be very good.

The regular invitation to all H.M.A. ships in Mios Woendi anchorage to motion pictures aboard "Platypus" has proved of

great benefit as recreational facilities were previously not very accessible.

The health of the ship's company has been excellent.

FIGURES FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY, 1945.

Distance steamed	2281.1 miles
Hours under way	227.2 hours
Average distance per ton of fuel	11.492 miles
Average speed for month	10.04 knots.

TOTAL FIGURES SINCE COMMISSIONING ON 30th APRIL, 1943.

Total distance steamed	55,931.7 miles.
Total hours under way	591.4 hours.
Average speed	9.45 knots.



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

~~RESTRICTED~~

RECEIVED
10 APR 1945
D.O.T.M.

2026/7/ 1210

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
MINUTE PAPER

SUBJECT: H.M.A.S. "Bootamundra" -REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS.
January 1945.

S.N.B. 12/3

2.N.M. 12/3

3.N.M. 1/3

D. of P. 20/3

D.R.M.

D.N.I. 15/4

NIS 1076573

Ops (N) 7/4

N.S. 9/4

D.E. (N) 9/4

D.O.T.M. 11/4

D.N.M.S. 13/4

H.R.B.

N.A.2.N.M. 1/4

N.S. 17/4

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

A/NHRO. 2/4

Lt Rankin 2/4
Mrs Slessor
Miss Woods.

H.S. 24/4

Bombardment
of
NH (Helmets)
30/12/44.

~~19/4~~
~~2/4~~
~~17/4~~

26/2

1457

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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY.
MINUTE PAPER.

2026/7/1210

8644.

23/2

SUBJECT: Amad Coetamundra " Report of Proceedings January 1915 "

~~DPS~~ *flu* 26/2

~~DTSR~~ *action has been taken on last paragraph*
Amcu
4/3

~~D.O.D~~ *46/3*

~~DENS~~ *6/3*

~~ISTM~~ *Rn/3*

N5

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RECEIVED A.S. 12 FEB 1945

DEPT. OF NAVY
2026-7-1210
SECRET

M10
H.M.A.S. "COOTAMUNDRA"
2nd. February, 1945.

15/17/44

The Secretary,
Naval Board,
Melbourne.

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS — MONTH OF JANUARY, 1945.

The following report of proceedings for the month of January, 1945 is submitted in accordance with C.C.N.O. 97 of 1943.

At the commencement of the period under report, ship was in company with H.M.A.Ss. "Stawell" and "Colac" escorting S.Ss. "Cape Tyron", "M. Sproule", PB 181, and PB 256 to Biak. At 1055, 2nd. January escorts detached off Biak and proceeded to Mios Woendi, entering harbour at 1245. At 1600 the following day ship proceeded to Biak and came to anchor outside Sorido Lagoon.

At 1800, 5th. January vessel proceeded to Mios Woendi to make good defect to HP and LP bottom ends port engine. At 1015 entered Mios Woendi Lagoon and came to anchor. Defect was made good by 2000.

At 0920 the following morning H.M.A.Ss. "Swan", "Cootamundra", "Cobra" and "Kapunda" proceeded in company to carry out A.A. practice firings at sleeve target. At 1145 firings were completed and ships in company proceeded to Biak and came to anchor off Sorido Lagoon at 1400. "Swan", "Cobra" and "Kapunda" proceeded on passage to Morotai at 1630.

At 1327, 8th. January ship proceeded with "Stawell" and "Ararat" to escort S.Ss. "C.W. Pasley" and "Thomas Corwin" to Morotai.

Ships in company entered Morotai harbour at 0848 on 10th. January after an uneventful voyage. While at Morotai escort vessels carried out a stationary A/S listening watch in rotation at the south and north-west entrances to the harbour.

HN
27/2/45

At 1336, 13th January "Cootamundra", "Stawell" and "Ararat" left harbour as escorts to M.V. "Dunback" on passage to Biak. "Cootamundra" and "Ararat" detached at 1230, 15th January and proceeded to Mios Woendi, leaving "Stawell" to escort M.V. "Dunback" to Biak.

Ship entered Mios Woendi Lagoon at 0629 the following morning and came to anchor.

During the period 17th - 23rd January, ship remained at Mios Woendi to carry out boiler cleaning. Stores and fresh provisions were embarked, and a payment was made to the ship's company.

At 0940, 24th January vessel proceeded in company with "Deloraine" to Biak and came to anchor off Sorido Lagoon at 1152.

At 1752 the same day, "Cootamundra" (S.O.E.) "Deloraine" and "Golac" proceeded to escort U.S.S. "Trinity" to Morotai.

At 0830, 26th January U.S. Destroyer D 478 closed ship and asked for instructions for entry into Morotai harbour. A spare chart, which was returned later, was transferred to the destroyer and ship proceeded.

Convoy and escorts entered Morotai harbour at 0845, 27th January and came to anchor off Navy Dock.

Later ship secured alongside U.S.S. "Trinity" to embark oil fuel. The ship's company were invited to the cinema aboard the tanker that evening.

At 0630 the following morning "Cootamundra" cast off and proceeded to southern entrance to the harbour and commenced a stationary A/S listening watch.

At 1045, 29th January "Deloraine" took over A/S listening watch and vessel proceeded to anchor off Navy Dock.

On the afternoon of the following day "Cootamundra" played 30 Squadron R.A.A.F. team at Rugby. The score resulted 8 - 2 in favour of the R.A.A.F.

At 1030, 31st January, "Cootamundra" took over stationary A/S listening watch at the north-west entrance to Morotai harbour.

GENERAL REMARKS.

The mail service continues to be good. Letters posted on the mainland have taken on an average from six to eight days to arrive.

The health of the ship's company has been excellent. There have been no cases of hospitalisation this month.

The general behaviour of the ship's company leaves little to be desired. The high state of morale can be partly attributed to the bombardment carried out by "Cockatoo" in the Northern Malakshes on 30th. December, 1944.

X Considerable trouble has been experienced with Local Oscillator Transformer (Part. No. IHH 50124) for type A 272 Radar set. Four transformers having been burnt out within a period of four months. This difficulty has been overcome by fitting a system of cooling vans designed by ship's staff. Details and specifications are being forwarded separately. X

FIGURES FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY, 1945.

Distance steamed	2166.2 miles
Hours under way	293 hours
Average distance per ton of fuel	8.07 miles

TOTAL FIGURES SINCE COMMISSIONING ON 30th. APRIL, 1943.

Total distance steamed	53,650.6 miles
Total hours under way	5690.2 hours
Average speed	9.60 knots

A. Bull

Lieutenant Commander, R.A.N.R.
Commanding Officer.

RESTRICTED**Royal Australian Navy.**

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE

No.

H.M.A.S. "COOTAMUNDRA"
4th January, 1945.The Secretary,
NAVAL BOARD,
MELBOURNE.

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS -- MONTH OF DECEMBER, 1944.

Submitted in accordance with C.C.N.O. 97 of 1943, the following Report of Proceedings for the month of December, 1944.

At the beginning of the period under report "Cootamundra" was still at Cairns carrying out Boiler Cleaning and granting recreational leave.

At 1654, 3rd December, "Cootamundra" proceeded in company with "Rockhampton" and "Deloraine" on passage to Milne Bay. No untoward incident occurred during the voyage, and all ships came to anchor off Gili Gili in Milne Bay at 1235 on the 5th December.

"Cootamundra" entered dry dock at 1530, 8th December, remaining there until 0750, 11th December, when she proceeded and secured alongside S.S. "Gilbert Stewart" at Pontoon Wharf, Gili Gili.

During the period in dry dock the ship's company were employed scraping and painting the ship's bottom. One coat each of anti-corrosive and anti-fouling paint was applied. The hull, propellers and shafts were found to be in good condition.

At 0830, 12th December, ship proceeded on passage to Madang with one steel ammunition barge in tow. "Cootamundra" entered Madang Harbour with tow at 0450, 15th December. At 1650 the same day, after having completed with fuel and water ship proceeded with tow on passage to Mios Woendi, arriving there at 0843 on the 19th December after an uneventful voyage. The barge was secured alongside "Swan" and vessel came to anchor.

Lieutenant Commander H.J. Hull, R.A.N.R. joined ship at 1230, 19th December. Ship proceeded at 1640 and came to anchor off Sorido Lagoon, Biak at 1840. By 2330 on Thursday, 20th December turnover was completed and Lieutenant Commander Hull assumed command. The following morning Lieutenant G.A. Johns, R.A.N.R. (S) was discharged to Biak for onward air passage to take up his appointment in H.M.A.S. "Penguin".

"Cootamundra" remained at anchor off Sorido Lagoon until 0530, 24th December when she proceeded to Mios Woendi for fuel. The ship proceeded again the same day and on clearing harbour commenced an A/S patrol south of Mios Woendi anchorage. At 1815 orders to cease patrol were received and ship proceeded to rendezvous with "Colac" escorting S.S. "Edward Nicholls" to Morotai. At 0324, 25th December made rendezvous with "Colac" Convoy arrived at Morotai at 0657, 27th December after an uneventful voyage. "Cootamundra" immediately relieved "Broome" on stationary A/S listening watch near entrance to Morotai harbour.

Early in the morning of 28th December two "Red" air raid alerts were given but no bombs were dropped by enemy A/C which were flying high. At 2000 the following evening another alert was sounded but no aircraft were observed.

At 1240, 30th December, "Bundaberg" took over stationary A/S listening watch and ship proceeded to Galela Bay, Northern Halmahera, in company with U.S.N. P.T. Boats 162 and 170 to carry out bombardment of enemy shore installations. Aircraft were provided by the R.A.A.F. for spotting fall of shot and photographing the area. Operation was completed at 1530 and ship proceeded to Morotai. Copy of report is attached.

Later, at 1800, "Cootamundra" S.O.(E), "Stawell" and "Colac" proceeded to escort S.S. "Cape Tyron", "Wm. Sproule" and F.S's 184 and 256 to Biak.

The conduct of the ship's company has been good. The general health of the ship's company continues to be good.

Figures for the Month of December, 1944.

Distance steamed	. . . . .	1864.4 miles.
Hours under way	. . . . .	314.3 hours.
Average distance per ton of fuel	. . . . .	11.47 miles.

Total Figures Since Commissioning on 30th April, 1943.

Total distance steamed	. . . . .	51,848.4 miles.
Total hours under way	. . . . .	5,437.2 hours.
Average speed	9.53 knots.



Lieutenant Commander R.A.N.R.
Commanding Officer.

18

18B



2026/7/ 1210

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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

MINUTE PAPER

SUBJECT: H.M.A.S. "Cooramundra" - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS.
November 1944

S.N.E. *11/12*

2.N.M. *21/12*

3.N.M. *1/45*

D. of P. *3/1*

D.R.M. *4/1*

D.N.I. *4/1*

Ops (N) *1/5/1*

D.E.(N) *1/9/1*

D.O.T.M *1/9/1*

D.N.M.S. *1/17/1*

H. Feb. *1/18/1*

N.A.2.N.M. *1/18/1*

N.5. *1/19/1*

D.N.I. (N.H.R.O.) *1/20/1*

P.P. 1/19/14

1/2

BRANCH
16 JAN 1945
NAVY OFFICE

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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY.

MINUTE PAPER.

2026/7/1210

3644.

SUBJECT: H.M.A.S. 'Cootamundra' - Report of Proceedings - November 1944

D.P.S. *[Signature]* 11/12

↓
D.T.S.R. *[Signature]* 13/12

D.O.D. *[Signature]* 14/12

D.C.V.S.
[Signature] 15/12

[Signature] 18/12

N.S. 12/12

✓
~~SECRET~~

From.....Commanding Officer, H.M.A.S. "COOTAMUNDRA" OF NAVY

Date.....1 st December, 1944. Ref. No.R.P./19

2026 - 7 - 1210

SECRET

To.....Secretary, Naval Board, Melbourne
copy to Naval Officer in Charge, New Guinea
Commander(D) in H.M.A.S. "SWAN"

Subject...REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS- MONTH OF NOVEMBER, 1944

Submitted in accordance with C.C.N.O. 97 of 1943
the following report of proceedings for the month of November,
1944:

At 0600i, 1st November, COOTAMUNDRA proceeded out
of Moratai harbour in company with H.M.A.S. "GOULBOURN"(S.O.),
escorting U.S. tankers "Trinity", "Seekonk" and "Rio Grande"
to Sansapor and Biak. The usual red alert was given at
0603i, the "all clear" being passed at 0615, no form of attack
having developed. Escorts carried out A/S patrol outside
harbour while awaiting convoy which was formed up and proceed-
ing at 0830i, speed of advance being 10 knots.

At 0540i, 2nd November, in position 1°20' N., 131°28' E,
COOTAMUNDRA was detached to proceed towards Sansapor with
"Trinity" and "Seekonk" while GOULBOURN continued to Biak with
"Rio Grande" at 12 knots. At 1635i "Seekonk" was sent in to
Sansapor anchorage, passage to Biak with remaining tanker
being continued. After an uneventful passage both ships
anchored off Sorido lagoon at 2022i, 3rd November.

At 0530i, 4th November, ship proceeded towards Mios
Woendi lagoon for fuel and stores. Ship anchored in the lagoon
at 0910i.

In company with H.M.A.S. BROOME and STRAHAN ship
proceeded at 0600i, 5th November, the group anchoring off
Sorido lagoon at 1030i.

At 0700i, 6th November ship proceeded, escorting two
U.S. air-sea rescue launches to Moratai via Sansapor. The
purpose of this escort appeared to be to give them navigational
aid rather than protection. After three hours steaming the
launches reported themselves unable to continue against the
high head sea. This was reported to Port Director, Biak who
instructed that they should be escorted to Mios Woendi.
Cootamundra anchored in the lagoon at 1534i.

During the following two days repairs to air pumps
were carried out under staff supervision.

At 0525i, 9th ship departed for Sorido lagoon and
continued on towards Noemfoor in execution of orders received.

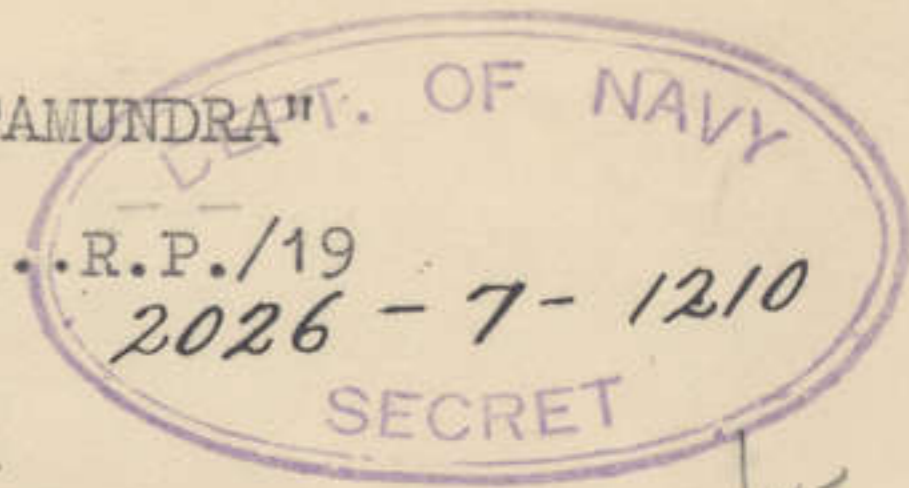
Ship anchored off Noemfoor at 1739i, proceeding
again at 0500i, 10th November, escorting s.s. "City of Fort
Wurth" to Moratai at nine knots.

At 1830i in position 1°30' N, 130°2' E a descending
flame followed by a column of black smoke was sighted on the
western horizon. Speed was increased to maximum and the vicini-
ty of the estimated position was searched for one hour.

The search being negative and rendered ineffective by
darkness it was abandoned at 1930i and convoy was rejoined at
1955i. It was considered probable that an allied aircraft had
crashed. Port Director, Moratai was informed and requested to
advise authorities concerned.

Convoy arrived at Moratai, without further incident,
at 0800i, 12th November.

At 1200i, 12th November, ship proceeded for Cairns
via Mios Woendi, Madang and Dreger for boiler-cleaning and
recreational leave. After an uneventful passage ship was berthed
at Cairns at 1032k, 22nd November and boiler-cleaning was commenced.



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~~SECRET~~

2026-7-1210

At the end of the period under report ship was still at Cairns, being due to proceed on 2nd December for Milne Bay for periodical docking.

During the period of boiler-cleaning and recreation the entire ship's company have been sent to Innisfail in two watches for four days each. Reports to date of the conduct of recreation parties in Innisfail and Cairns have been most satisfactory. It is regretted that the record has been marred by one civil offence.

It is anticipated that the ship's company will benefit greatly in morale and in health from their sojourn in Cairns.

Plentiful supplies of fresh milk, green vegetables and fresh fish have been available. Regular mails have been received.

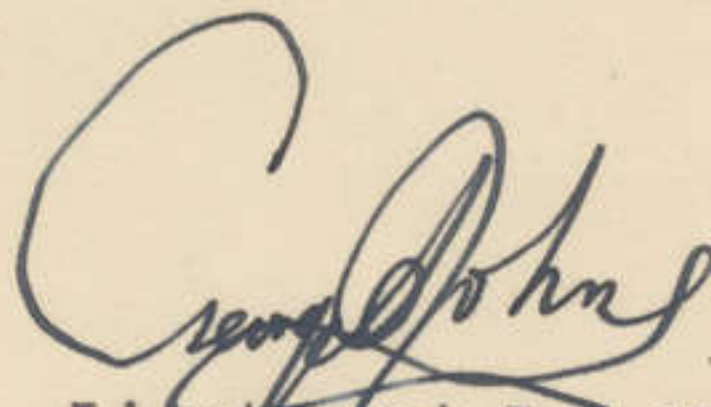
The general health of the ship's company continues to be satisfactory. W

There have been no cases of hospitalisation other than the mental case mentioned in my report for the preceding month. A report on the discharge of this rating to U.S. medical authorities at Morotai was forwarded through Commander(D). He rejoined the ship on arrival at Cairns and has been discharged to KURANDA for observation and treatment.

Maintenance programme has been kept up to date.

MONTHLY FIGURES	Distance steamed: 3691 miles
	Hours under way : 336. 5
	Average distance
	per ton of fuel :12 miles

TOTAL FIGURES (from date of commissioning - 30/4/43)	Total distance steamed: 48,984 miles
	Total hours under way : 5122. 9
	Average Speed : 9. 56 knots



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

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41A

RESTRICTED

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

2026/7/1210 part.

MINUTE PAPER

SUBJECT: H.M.A.S. COOTAMUNDRA - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS.

October 1944

S.N.B.

2.N.M.

3.N.M.

D. of P.

D.N.I.

DRM.

Ops (N)

D.E. (N)

D.O.T.M.

DNMS

H.H.

N.A.2.N.M.

N.S.

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



31/10/44
and clock at Moresby

120 4/1 F

51

P.N.M.S. BRANCH
20 DEC 1944
NAVY OFFICE

[Faint, mostly illegible text and markings, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side of the page. Some words like "RETURNED" and "RADIOGRAM" are faintly visible.]

16

348A

SECRET
RESTRICTED

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY.
MINUTE PAPER.

2026/7/1210

DA52071-3-C.14053.

SUBJECT :

H.M.A.S. "Cooramundra" - Report of Proceedings
October 1944

~~D.P.S.~~ *J 14/11*

~~D.T.S.R.~~ *[Signature] 18/11*

~~D.O.D.~~ *[Signature] 11*

~~D.C.V.S.~~ *[Signature] 25/11*

~~[Signature]~~ *[Signature] 21/11*

~~16~~ *15-*

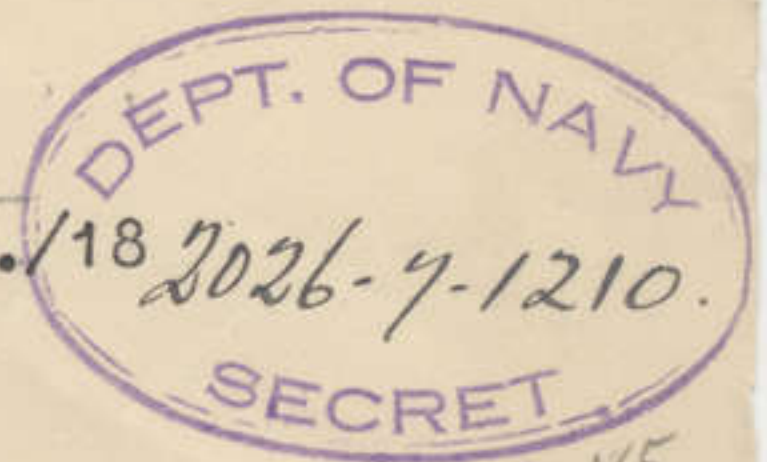
RESTRICTED

From Commanding Officer, H.M.A.S. "COOTAMUNDRA"

Date 1 st November, 1944. Ref. No. R.P./18 2026-7-1210.

To Secretary, Naval Board, Melbourne
copy to Naval Officer in Charge, New Guinea
" " Commander (D), Madang.

Subject..... REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS- MONTH OF OCTOBER, 1944



N5
17
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RECEIVED
14 NOV 1944
NAVY CONFIDENTIAL RECORDS

Ask'd By Form
A.S. 1880
18/11/44

Submitted in accordance with C.C.N.O. 97 Of 1943 the following report of proceedings for the month of October, 1944:

At the beginning of the period under report COOTAMUNDRA was still attached to Sansapor for A/S patrol duties, departing from the area at 0600i, 2nd October and arriving at Mios Woendi lagoon at 1136i, 3rd October.

Further deterioration of boiler brickwork having developed, engineering advice from other ships was sought (no engineer officer is borne in COOTAMUNDRA). It was consequently found necessary to die out both boilers and effect repairs.

Repairs being completed ship departed at 0600i, 5th October for Madang, via Hollandia. After an uneventful passage ship entered Humboldt Bay at 1240i, 6th October,

Departing from Hollandia at 0500i, 7th October ship arrived at Madang, after a voyage without incident, at 1800i, 8th October. Boiler-cleaning programme was commenced.

During the period of boiler-cleaning (9th-15th October) Staff inspections of Gunnery, Torpedo and Radar departments were carried out. The ship's company was given welcome opportunities of taking part in organised sports (inter-ship and inter-Service). Defects to Sound/Acoustic Gear were taken in hand by base staff. Boiler brickwork was surveyed and found to be in good order by base Engineer Officer.

At 0900k, 16th October staff officers, accompanied by Army and R.A.A.F. officers, embarked to observe bombardment exercises. During the forenoon 27 rounds of H.E. ammunition (4") were fired at unseen targets on Bili Bili Island, spotting corrections being passed by Bommerang aircraft in R/T communication. This was the ship's first attempt at bombardment; the exercise was considered to be satisfactorily carried out and to be most beneficial.

Before returning to harbour A/S attack was exercised, two depth charges being expended, and A.A. firings on ship's own starshell targets.

On return to harbour at noon Army and R.A.A.F. observers were disembarked, ship proceeding to exercise area at 1235k.

During the afternoon LL sweeping exercise, L.A. full calibre firings and various evolutions as ordered were carried out under staff supervision. On completion of exercises ship returned to harbour at 1800k.

It is considered that the ship, during this boiler-cleaning period, benefited greatly as regards training, recreation and the adjustment of outstanding defects.

At 1713k, 17th October ship proceeded towards Humboldt Bay, arriving at 0600i, 19th October after an uneventful passage and resuming passage to Biak at 2230i.

From 22nd to 24th October A/S patrol was carried out in the approaches to Biak anchorage. Ship proceeded towards Mios Woendi at 1600i, arriving at the lagoon at 1817i, 24th October.

On completion of fuelling and storing ship departed for Biak at 0913i, 25th October.

At 2100i, 25th October, COOTAMUNDRA cleared Biak anchorage with H.M.A.S. "LITHGOW", escorting U.S.S. "Seekonk" and s.s. Maria Sandford (U.S.) to Morotai. No untoward incident occurred during the voyage, all ships entering harbour at 0900i, 29th October.

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11/44

RESTRICTED

On completion of fuelling COOTAMUNDRA took over A/S patrol of the harbour entrances, with LITHGOW.

At 1700i, 30th October, ship proceeded to inner anchorage, being relieved from patrol by H.M.A.S. STRAHAN.

At 0530i, 31st October, five enemy aircraft commenced bombing and strafing attacks of shore installations and shipping.

A heavy barrage was put up by ships at anchor and one plane shot down was observed to crash on the foreshore. It was subsequently learned that two others were shot down in the upper reaches of the harbour. No damage to shipping, other than minor casualties from ~~strafing~~, was apparent.

COOTAMUNDRA was hit by a 0.5 bullet which caused negligible superficial damage and no casualty. Two ratings were struck by small fragments of our own flak, without suffering any injury worth considering.

After the 'all clear' had been passed a number of ships appeared to be claiming to have shot down the plane which might have fallen to any one of them or to the combined fire of all.

COOTAMUNDRA makes no claim beyond that fire was held until it could be effective and was accurate when opened, 500 rounds of 20mm. oerlikon ammunition being expended.

COOTAMUNDRA relieved STRAHAN from A/S patrol at 0700i, 31st October. During the forenoon the 2 fathom and 2½ fathom shoals in the harbour entrance were located and marked by ~~buoys~~ dan-buoys to assist the U.S. authorities to re-lay the missing entrance buoys.

Ship was still on A/S patrol at the end of the period under report, being due to leave the following day with escorted ships for Sansapor and Biak.

The health of the ship's company continues to be most satisfactory. Sick list return for the month is again nil. The only case of hospitalisation is a strongly suspected mental case on whom a separate report has been forwarded.

The conduct of the ship's company continues to be satisfactory. Periods of restiveness are observed when there are long delays between mail deliveries. It is desired to emphasise that regular receipt of mail has been found to be the principal factor in the maintenance of morale and that when delays are protracted ship's company tend to brood over the effect without taking a reasonable view of the cause.

Maintenance programme has been satisfactorily adhered to.

Monthly Figures: Distance steamed: 3247 miles
Hours under way : 331
Average distance per ton of fuel : 11.5 miles

Total Figures : Total distance steamed: 45,293 miles
(from date of Total hours under way : 4776.4
commissioning: Average speed : 9.48 knots
30th April, 1943)

T/ Lieutenant, R.A.N.R(S)
Commanding Officer.



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY.

2026/7/12/10

~~SECRET~~ RESTRICTED

MINUTE PAPER.

SUBJECT: H.M.A.S. COOTAMUNDRA - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS.

S.N.B. *25/10*

SEPTEMBER 1944

S.N.M. *30/10*

S.N.M. *2/11*

D.O.D. *3/11*

D. of P. *6/11*

D.R.M. *7/11*

D.N.I. *7/11*

Ops(N). *14/11*

D.E.(N). *later*

D.O.T.M. *14/11*

H.I.S. *15/11*

N.A.2. *15/11*

N.S. *for*

D.N.I. (N.H.R.O.) *15/11*
A/N...
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SECRET - SECURITY INFORMATION

SECRET

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RESTRICTED

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY.

2026/7/12/0

292A

MINUTE PAPER.

3643....

SUBJECT: H. Mas' bootamundra - Report of Proceedings - September 1944

~~D.P.S~~ 16/10

~~D.T.S.R~~ 18/10

~~D.O.D~~ 20/10

D.C.N.S
19/10

~~15/11~~ 20/10

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RESTRICTED

DEPT. OF NAVY

SECRET

From....Commanding Officer, H.M.A.S. "COOTAMUNDRA"

Date....1 st. October, 1944 Ref. No....

2026-7-1210

P/17

Rps 1108

To.....Secretary, Naval Board, Melbourne
copy to Naval Officer in Charge, New Guinea
Commander(D) Madang.

Subject REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS-MONTH OF SEPTEMBER, 1944

Submitted in accordance with C.C.N.O. 97 of 1943 the following report of proceedings for the month of September, 1944:

On completion of boiler-cleaning at Madang ship cleared harbour at 1030k, 1st September, with H.M.A.S. "GLADSTONE" in company to exercise LAL sweeping.

Since installation of LAAL equipment at the last re-fit no opportunity of streaming the gear in company with a suitable ship had previously presented itself. As the ship's personnel have had no previous experience of LAAL sweeping and have only limited experience of LL sweeping, this opportunity of carrying out the first streaming as an instructional exercise, under staff supervision, was welcomed.

On completion of sweeping exercises at 1500k both ships joined H.M.A.S. KIAMA and GYMPIE to carry out fleet manoeuvres, evolutions as ordered, high-angle firing practice and day and night L.A. full-calibre firings.

On completion of exercises all ships returned to anchorage in Madang Harbour at 2120k.

Mails and stores for H.M.A.S. "KOOPA" were embarked on 2nd September and ship proceeded out of harbour at 1830k, bound for Hollandia in company with H.M.A.S. "WAGGA" and "GLADSTONE". All ships entered Hollandia Bay at 0700k, 4th September, no untoward incident having occurred during the passage.

Escort group cleared harbour at 1600i, 4th September, escorting s.s. "Esso Pittsburgh" to Mios Woendi, speed of advance being 12 knots. The voyage was without incident, all ships anchoring in Mios Woendi lagoon at 1800i, 5th September.

Mails and stores were discharged to H.M.A.S. "KOOPA".

Escort group proceeded at 0600i, 6th September to come under the operational orders of Port Director, Sansapor. After an uneventful passage all ships anchored off Amsterdam Island at 1020i, 7th September.

Responsibility for anti-submarine patrol in the Sansapor Area was taken over at 1700i, 7th September, "COOTAMUNDRA" and "GLADSTONE" relieving the two U.S. Frigates at that time.

At 1000i, 11th September COOTAMUNDRA was recalled from patrol by WAGGA (S.O.) to assist s.s. "Aloma" (U.S.), aground on the reef south of Middleberg Island. Own towing gear was used and "Aloma" was towed into deep water at 1202i. Aloma had suffered no apparent damage other than a propellor fouled by his own towline in a previous attempt at salvage.

The Group departed for Mios Woendi, via Biak, at 0700i, 12th September, having been relieved from patrol by H.M.A.S. "BENDIGO", "BROOME" and "GLENELG". The voyage was without incident, all ships berthing on U.S.S. "Victoria" (fleet tanker) in Mios Woendi lagoon at 1045i, 14th September.

The group departed for return to Sansapor, via Biak, at 0700i, 15th September, to relieve BENDIGO, BROOME and GLENELG on patrol, arriving off Amsterdam Island at 1400i., 16th Sept.

ACK. BY A.S. 1430Y

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Checked for Indexing

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-2-

Henceforth ship was engaged in A/S Patrol duty till the end of the period under report.

GLADSTONE detached from the Group on 29th September to proceed to Cairns in execution of orders received.

During this period air-raid alerts were frequent.

However, as they always occurred at night with not more than three enemy planes confining their activity to the aerodromes, no contact was made by the ships and patrolling was in no way interrupted.

Otherwise, no untoward incident occurred during the period of patrol.

Towards the end of the period under report a progressive deterioration in the prevailing weather in the area was noted.

During the last week further loosening of brickwork in both boilers was sighted. Plans for repairs have been deferred till more sheltered anchorage is available as the defect has not given undue concern and it is not considered prudent to undertake in this area any repairs involving extension of notice for steam.

The health of the ship's company has been very satisfactory. There have been no cases of sickness or hospitalisation during the period under report.

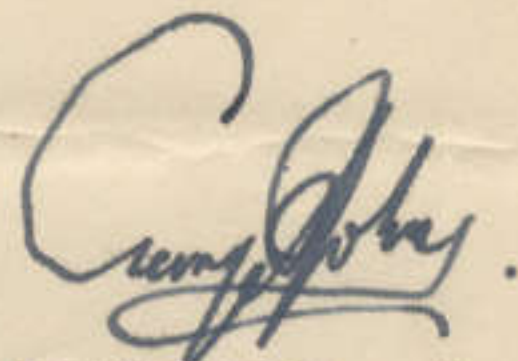
Conduct continues to be satisfactory, the limited number of offences being generally of a minor nature.

Maintenance programme has been kept up-to-date. Some difficulty is experienced in carrying out engine-room routines and minor repairs owing to the impracticability of extending notice for steam. However, no particular defects, other than that of the brickwork previously referred to, have developed.

MONTHLY FIGURES: Distance steamed: 3860 miles
Hours under way : 369. 4
Average distance
per ton of fuel : 11. 53 miles

TOTAL FIGURES : Total distance steamed : 42,046 miles
Total hours under way : 4445. 4
Average speed : 9. 46 knots

Total figures are from date of commissioning:-
30th April, 1943.



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

9/2

335 B.

RESTRICTED



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

2026/7/1108

MINUTE PAPER.

SUBJECT: F.M.A.S. "COOTAMUNDRA" - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS.

AUGUST 1944

S.N.B. 11/20

2.N.M. 1/10

3.N.M. 4/10

D.O.D. 4/10

D. of P. 1/10

S.O.F.B. 9/10

D.N.I. 11/10

Ops (N) 1/10

D.E. (M) 1/11

D.O.T.M. 18/11

H.R. 1/11

N.A. 2.N.M. 1/11

N.S.

D.N.I. (N.H.R.O.) 1/11

17/11/40

No Item

1/11
22. Physical Examination

4/104
30/20

13/115

13/10

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RESTRICTED

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August 1947

11/11/47

11/11/47

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11/11/47

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11/11/47

15/9.



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233B.

SECRET RESTRICTED

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY.

MINUTE PAPER.

2026/7/1108

SUBJECT: Amas "COOTA MUNDRA" - Report of Proceedings - August 1944

14/9 W.P.S. 15/9

Page 3. The mail situation should improve under US management.

D.C.N.S. 18/9.

The need of a movie projector at Port Directorates where HMA ships are based has been long felt. There have often been half a dozen or more AMS's and escort vessels anchored at such places as Langemak, Medang, Hollandia and a movie show would be an excellent recreation for ship companies & PD staff. US Navy would provide films from their film libraries.

(X)

W. J. J. 18/9

18/9 N.M.

21/9/9. (D.P.S. (7.8.44)) 20/9.

D.P.S. (X)

1, 35mm projector has been loaned from Port Moresby To N of N.G.

2, 16mm on order for Commander (D) Medang will soon arrive if it is hoped.

8

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29/9 19/9 F.

RESTRICTED

DEPT. OF NAVY
2026-7-1108
SECRET

From Commanding Officer, H.M.A.S. "COOTAMUNDRA"

Date 2nd September, 1944. Ref. No.... R.2/16

To Secretary, Naval Board, Melbourne
copy to.. Naval Officer in Charge, New Guinea
" " Commander(D) MADANG

RECEIVED
12 SEP 1944
NAVY CONFIDENTIAL RECORDS

Subject..... REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS- MONTH OF AUGUST, 1944

Submitted in accordance with C.C.N.O. 97 of 1943 the following report of proceedings for the month of August, 1944:

HN
12/9

On 1st and 2nd August ship was at Finsch Harbour embarking stores and awaiting convoy. As ship was required to shift billet continuously at shortest notice to meet the berthing requirements of shipping in the port, departure was taken for Dreger at 0825k, 3rd August.

Ship cleared Dreger Harbour at 0930k, 5th August in company with H.M.A.S. "KIAMA" to rendezvous "Vendetta" and "Glenelg" off Langemak. Speed of "KIAMA" was reduced to 5 knots owing to engine trouble, both ships proceeding to Finsch Harbour at that speed.

"COOTAMUNDRA" cleared harbour at 1818k, 5th August in company with "VENDETTA" and "GLENELG" escorting 14 L.C.I.'s to Humboldt Bay, speed of advance being 11½ knots.

At 2031k, 5th August "GLENELG" was detached to escort one straggler, bound for Aitape, which was unable to exceed nine knots. A second L.C.I., also bound for Aitape, subsequently dropped back to join this section.

At 2100k, 6th August "COOTAMUNDRA" was detached in position 3°3' S., 144°18' E., to take over escort of Aitape section of convoy, "GLENELG" having sent both L.C.I.'s on independently while attacking a submarine contact in position 352° Bam Island 15 miles.

The convoy was located with some difficulty, proceeding close to the northward of the Schouten Isles and escort to Aitape was resumed (2330k).

At 1123k, 7th August both L.C.I.'s entered Aitape Roads and departure was taken for Humboldt Bay in execution of previous orders, speed of passage being 12 knots.

Spectacular bombing attacks were being carried out over the Aitape perimeter by R.A.A.F. Beauforts while convoy was being screened to seaward prior to entry.

Ack'd By Form

A.S. 12/9

init. 11/9

Date 11/9

Ship entered Humboldt Bay at 1914k, 7th August, re-fuelling on arrival, and clearing harbour at 0730k, 8th August escorting M.V. "Merkur" to Mios Woendi; speed of advance was 12 knots.

At 1321k, in position 1°53' S., 139°55' E., A/S contact classified as doubtful, re-classified as submarine and finally established as non-submarine, was gained. Convoy was sent ahead ~~and~~ independently while three deliberate attacks were carried out. Thirty-one depth charges were expended, one of which failed to explode.

It was eventually established that an apparently small section of timber in the vicinity of the contact was in reality a large inverted, waterlogged tree.

A separate ^{report} of this incident has been forwarded in accordance with A.C.B. 0234(2) Appendix iii, para. 5(c).

V/S communication with "Merkur" by searchlight was established and convoy speed reduced to six knots while escort rejoined. "Merkur" entered Mios Woendi Lagoon at 0845k, 9th August, "COOTAMUNDRA" returning to Humboldt Bay at 11 knots, entering harbour at 1304k, 10th August.

At 1730k, 10th August ship cleared harbour with BUNDABERG and "GLADSTONE" escorting convoy B.G. 7 (10 ships) to Wakde, Mios Woendi, Biak and Noemfoor, speed of advance being 7 knots.

At 0643k, 11th August "COOTAMUNDRA" was detached to escort tanker Y-8, unable to maintain speed of advance, to Wakde Island.

13/9

At 0945k, 11th August, when tanker Y-8 rounded Wakde Island, course was set to rejoin convoy off the Koemamba Islands.

The brickwork in both boilers was showing signs of coming away, this defect being attributable to the depth charge firings on the previous day. It was decided to die out the starboard boiler in which deterioration was most marked, and a report was made to BUNDABERG.

COOTAMUNDRA was detached for return to Hollandia on one boiler to effect repairs. On arrival at Hollandia at 1533k, 12th August, second boiler was died out and re-bricking taken in hand.

At 1832k, 16th August ship cleared harbour in company with "KIAMA" escorting convoy B.G. 9 (three U.S. ships) to Wakde Island, speed of advance being 9 knots.

The passage was without incident, convoy and escorts anchoring in Maffin Bay at 1030k, 17th August.

At 1800k, 17th August both escorts proceeded to the assistance of s.s. ABIGAIL DOOMAWAY (U.S.) aground on charted reef one mile west of Wakde Island. As tide was falling escorts anchored off the strand, towing operations being deferred until high water the following morning.

At 0845k, 18th August "Abigail Doomaway" was towed into deep water by "KIAMA", the tow providing the hawser and assisting by use of engines, and "COOTAMUNDRA" standing by to tow "KIAMA" if added towing power should be required.

On completion of this operation both escorts proceeded to rendezvous "BUNDABERG" and "GLADSTONE" off Koemamba Is, escorting s.s. "Henry White" (U.S.) to Noemfoor. The voyage was without incident, convoy and escorts anchoring off Noemfoor at 1600k, 19th August.

Escort group weighed anchor at 1990k, escorting s.s. "Prince Campbell" (U.S.) to Hollandia. Escorts and convoy anchored off Sorido Lagoon (Biak I.) at 0830k, 20th August.

The voyage to Hollandia was resumed at 1600k, with one additional ship in convoy. "COOTAMUNDRA" was despatched from Biak at 1300 k to proceed to Mios Woendi to collect mails from HMAS "KOOPA". Ship cleared Mios Woendi Lagoon at 1800k, rejoining convoy in the approaches.

All ships entered Hollandia Bay at 0623k, 22nd August.

"COOTAMUNDRA", "KIAMA" and "GLADSTONE" cleared harbour at 1745k, escorting s.s. "John Nolan" (U.S.) and s.s. "Prince Campbell" (U.S.) towards Langemak. The voyage was without incident.

All escorts detached in execution of previous orders to enter Madang Harbour at 1715k, 24th August, the convoy proceeding independently to Langemak.

On arrival at Madang, boiler-cleaning and Training programmes were commenced.

It is regretted to report the death by drowning on 30th August of Able Seaman R.H. Windsor, O.N. P.A. 2484.

This fatality has been reported by signal and a full report of the inquiry held has been forwarded.

Ship was at Madang Harbour at the end of the period under report.

The health and conduct of the ship's company continues to be satisfactory.

The maintenance of a high standard of health appears to be of particular importance in these areas. The ordinary expectation of hospitalisation tends to give rise to serious problems as regards maintaining complement departmentally. It is difficult to obtain temporary reliefs in such cases from shore establishments and depot ships and diffidence is felt in requesting them as it is appreciated that they are similarly suffering from the absence of a wastage pool in the area.

A slight deterioration of morale, to be expected in view of the reduced recreational and mail facilities on the ship's new station, has been noted. It has been pointed out to the ship's company that this position is continually under review by their Commanding Officer and his administrative authorities and that the reasonable view that mails and recreation may be irregular must be accepted in forward areas.

Although the ship has been at notice for steam of two hours or less almost continuously other than during boiler-cleaning, the maintenance programme has been kept up to date. The ship is free of major mechanical problems.

Upper deck maintenance is considered to conform to standard required.

MONTHLY FIGURES: Distance steamed : 2908 miles
Hours under way : 322.4
Average distance
per ton of fuel : 12.27 miles

TOTAL FIGURES: Total distance steamed: 38,186 miles
Total hours under way : 4,076
Average Speed : 9.37 knots

Total figures are from date of commissioning -
30th April, 1943.


Lieutenant, RANR(S)
Commanding Officer.

11/9.



2026/7/1108

226A

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

MINUTE PAPER.

RESPECTED

SUBJECT: H.M.A.S. "COOTAMUNDRA"

- REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS.

JULY, 1944

S.N.B.

2.N.M.

3.N.M.

D.O.D.

D. of P.

D.N.

Ops (N)

D.E. (N)

D.O.T.M.

H.A.S.

N.A.S.

N.S.

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

A/N 11/9
File

N.I.

12/9

29/8

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2026/7/1108 176B.

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY.
MINUTE PAPER.

8644.

SUBJECT: H.M. at "Cootamundra" - Monthly Report

SECRET

15
A.P.S.

15/8

Recd ^{del 230.} per ^{18/8}

Wm. R. 15/8

A.P.S. 21/8

115

~~218~~ 15/8m

SECRET

DEPT. OF NAVY
2026-7-1108
SECRET

From,.....Commanding Officer, H.M.A.S. "COOTAMUNDRA"

Date.....1 st August, 1944. Ref. No. R.P./15

ToSecretary, Naval Board, Melbourne.
copy to..Naval Officer in Charge, New Guinea
" " ..Commander(D) , Madang

Subject.....REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS- MONTH OF JULY, 1944

ACK BY AS: 18307
10 AUG 1944
INIT:

4/15
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Submitted in accordance with C.C.N.O. 97 of 1943 the following report of proceedings for the month of July, 1943:

"COOTAMUNDRA" arrived at Thursday Island anchorage, escorting s.s. RIVER CLARENCE" from Darwin, on 1 st July, 1944 at 0725k, transferring to the administrative and operational command of Naval Officer in Charge, New Guinea, on arrival.

HN
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44

Fuel was obtained on 2nd July and ship proceeded at 0700k, 3rd July on passage to Milne Bay, speed of advance being 10 knots. Strong S.E. breeze and rough sea were experienced throughout the passage, which otherwise was without incident.

On arrival at Milne Bay at 1546k, 5th July, boiler-cleaning was commenced. On completion of boiler-cleaning ship departed from Milne Bay at 1010k, 12th July in company with H.M.A.S. "Latrobe" on passage to Langemak. Both ships arrived at Langemak at 1700k, 13th July, having fuelled at Dreger on route. The voyage was otherwise without incident.

At 1535k, 16th July ship cleared Langemak harbour in company with H.M.A.S. "Rockhampton" (senior officer) and H.M.A.S. "Bunbury", escorting convoy B.G. 2 (nine ships) to Hollandia. H.M.A.S. "Deloraine" escorting one ship joined the convoy at 0120k, 17th July. No untoward incident occurred during the voyage, convoy arriving at destination at 0800k, 19th July.

At 1100k, 19th July escorts continued in company without "Bunbury", escorting s.s. "Both", "Carl Bath" and J.C. Harris" to Wakde Island, speed being regulated at 6 knots for daylight arrival. All escorts proceeded from Wakde anchorage at 0855k, 20th July on return passage to Hollandia, arriving at 1903k. No untoward incident occurred throughout.

"Cootamundra" and "Rockhampton" in company departed from Hollandia at 0630k, 21st July for return passage to Langemak. Both ships entered harbour at 1500k, 23rd July, the voyage having been without incident.

At 1700k, 24th July ship cleared harbour escorting convoy B.G. 103 (14 ships) to Hollandia in company with H.M.A.S. "Swan" (senior officer), "Bundaberg", "Latrobe", "Lithgow", "Kapunda" and S.C. 743.

At 1128k, 26th July in estimated position 2°30'S, 143°30'E, a doubtful asdic contact ahead of the convoy was reported, COOTAMUNDRA being 3600 yards abeam of leading ship of starboard column. Course was altered towards the contact at increased speed. Escorts were informed by R/T and an emergency turn to port originated. Contact was lost at three hundred yards when it was estimated that the leading ship of the starboard column was turning to port in the position. It was necessary to take avoiding action to clear the leading ships. "Swan" and "Cootamundra" searched till 1218k but contact was not regained.

No other incident occurred during the voyage, escorts following the convoy into Hollandia Bay at 0930k, 27th July.

Ship proceeded out of Hollandia at 1700k, 27th July in company with H.M.A.S. "Bundaberg" (senior officer) and "Glenelg", escorting s.s. "Don Marcus" (U.S.) to Langemak.

At 0524, 28th July an unidentified craft passed between "Bundaberg" and "Cootamundra". Six rounds of starshell were fired by "Bundaberg" and the illuminated craft was identified as an F.P. (U.S.).

12/8/44

- 2 -

SECRET

At 0416k, 29th July "Bundaberg" detached for Madang. No other untoward incident occurred during the passage, "Cootamundra" anchoring in Langemak Bay at 2310k, 29th July, after "Glenelg" had entered and s.s. "Don Marcus" detached receiving independent orders from Langemak.

On 30th and 31st July oil fuel, stores and fresh water were embarked at Dreger and Finsch Harbour as requisite, ship being berthed at Finsch Harbour at the end of the period under report.

The health and conduct of the ship's company continues to be very satisfactory.

Maintenance work has been carried out at every opportunity and the ship has no major mechanical problems.

Difficulty is experienced in maintaining the desired standard of external appearance owing to the almost incessant rain which is to be expected on this station.

MONTHLY FIGURES: Distance steamed: 3774 miles
Hours under way : 384
Average distance
per ton of fuel : 14.46 miles

TOTAL FIGURES : TOTAL DISTANCE STEAMED: 35,278 miles
Total hours under way : 3753.58
Average Speed : 9.4 knots.

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

7a.

218A

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY.

2026/7/1108

~~RESTRICTED~~

MINUTE PAPER.



SUBJECT: F.M.A.S. COOTAMUNDRA - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS.

JUNE, 1944

S.N.E.

2.N.M.

3.N.M.

D.O.D.

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D.N.I.

Ops (N)

D.E. (N)

D.O.T.M.

H.R.P.

N.A.2.N.M.

N.S.

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

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June, 1944

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2026/4/1108

132A

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY.
MINUTE PAPER.

3644.

2187

SUBJECT: H.M.A.S. "Cootamundra" - Letter of Proceedings

SECRET RESTRICTED

D.P.S. 11/19/17

D.A.S.D. 28/17

D.R.(N) 31/7.

D.C.N.S. per. 26/7.

N5

1st N.M. 26/7.

N5 26/7

per. 26/7.

ACK. BY. A.S. 13301
17 JUL 1944
INIT.

DEPT. OF NAVY
SECRET
2026/7/110.8

File # 15
9
43

Commanding Officer H.M.A.S. "COOTAMUNDRA's" letter R.P/14
dated 1 July 1944.

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS—MONTH OF JUNE, 1944.

II.

N.T.0600/32.

The Secretary,
NAVAL BOARD.

Submitted for the information of the Naval Board
with reference to the abovequoted Navy Office Letter.

B.B. Beldrum
A/CAPTAIN.

Naval Headquarters,
Darwin,
10 July 1944.

KN 12/7

✓

2026/7/1108

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

MINUTE PAPER

3422-41 ↑

SUBJECT :

COOTAMUNDRA

S.N.C. (Ship) *[Signature]*

This vessel is one of a group for which ballast amounting to 23 tons was to be fitted to each ship.

2. Provided this ballast has been stowed, stability is considered satisfactory.
3. Various C.C.N.O.s have stated that only approved topweight is to be fitted. The items referred to by C.O. Cootamundra have been covered by the ballast.
4. Stability statement based on an inclining experiment carried out on "INVERELL" in September, 1942, has been issued.
5. G.M. in light condition is 1.25 ex trim effect.

[Signature]

DTN (N.)

It appears that more top weight should be surrendered. Submit C.O. be asked to state total amount which he can surrender

[Signature]
31 AUG 1944

~~RESTRICTED~~

From Commanding Officer, H.M.A.S. "COOTAMUNDRA"

Date 1st July, 1944. Ref. No. R.P./14.

To Naval Officer in Charge- DARWIN, N.T.

Subject .. REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS- MONTH OF JUNE, 1944

Submitted in accordance with Navy Office Secret Memorandum 589/201/870 dated 1st April 1943, the following report of proceedings for the month of June, 1944:

Annual Refitting being completed on 31st May, ship passed out of dockyard hands (Garden Island, Sydney) on that date, all ammunition having been embarked.

Ship proceeded to sea at 0830k, 1st June for Radar Installation trials, returning to harbour at 1343k on completion.

De-perming programme was carried out at Kurraba Wharf on 2nd June and outstanding stores were re-embarked.

D.G. ranging, A/S. trials, compass adjustment and Damage Control inspection were carried out in harbour on 3rd June.

At 1645k, 3rd June ship proceeded on passage to Thursday Island via Townsville to resume duty on the Darwin Station.

Fresh South-east breeze and rough quartering sea were experienced between Smoky Cape and Sandy Cape; this resulted in rolling up to 25° with shipping of heavy water in the weather waist. To avoid synchronism, alterations of course were necessary.

Since completion of re-fitting a distinct difference in the ship's behaviour among waves is noted. The present tendency is to roll more easily and to greater angles in corresponding seaways than heretofore. This is attributed to the fitting of Radar installation and L AA L Sweep reel, combined with the retention of the Mark XVI Gun, without surrender of equivalent top-weight. The exact extent of the consequent detrimental effect on the ship's stability has not been computed, in the absence of necessary data.

At 0840k, 8th June ship berthed at No. 1 Pier, Townsville, proceeding at 1735k on completion of fuelling, in continuation of passage to Thursday Island. No untoward incident occurred during the voyage, ship anchoring in Thursday I. harbour at 1313k, 11th June.

During the period 12th-16th June a programme of cleaning ship and re-stowing storerooms was carried out.

Ship proceeded out of harbour at 0652k, 17th June, escorting s.s. "ADMIRAL CHASE" to Darwin, speed of advance being 8½ knots. The voyage was without incident, both ships entering Darwin Boom at 1305k, 21st June.

At 1010k, 23rd June, ship passed through Darwin Boom, leading H.M.A.S. PIRIE, M.L.429 and M.L.809 for flotilla exercises in accordance with your Confidential Message, T.O.O. 220321z.

A report on the exercises was forwarded on return to harbour at 0733k, 24th June (My secret letter 677/4/1 dated 24/6/44).

RESTRICTED
~~RESTRICTED~~

- 2 -

At 0806ik, 26th June, "COOTAMUNDRA" passed through Darwin Boom leading H.M.A.S. "INVERELL", "FREMANTLE", M.L.'s 429, 809, proceeding to sea for high-angle firings in accordance with your signal T.O.O. 241112z.

M.L. 815 was relieved from Boom Patrol to join flotilla.

No separate report on this practice has been forwarded. After rendezvous with the target aircraft some initial confusion was caused by doubt as to whether the aircraft was attempting to complete four runs on each ship successively or to work down the line in four runs. However the position was clarified by R/T communication and the practice proceeded smoothly as laid down. The condition of the drogue at conclusion of firings testified to the accuracy of the shooting.

"COOTAMUNDRA" expended 1500 rounds of oerlikon and 1500 rounds of .303 ammunition.

On completion of firings "FREMANTLE" and M.L.'s were detached for independent return to harbour.

"COOTAMUNDRA" carried out LL sweeping operations in accordance with your ~~signal~~ signal T.O.O. ~~252340~~ 252340, returning to harbour at sunset.

"COOTAMUNDRA" passed through Boom at 0833ik, 27th June, leading "INVERELL" and M.L.'s 429 & 809 to carry out L.A. firing practices in accordance with your secret signal T.O.O. 260621. Ships re-entered harbour at 1315ik.

Analysis and report of this practice will be forwarded separately.

Ship cleared Darwin Boom at 0900ik, 28th June, escorting s.s. "River Clarence" to Thursday I., speed of advance being 11 knots. The convoy was still on passage at the end of the period under report.

The health of the ship's company has been consistently good. No cases of venereal disease have resulted from the ship's visit to Sydney, where twentyone days long leave was granted.

The conduct of the ship's company has been very gratifying, the increase in the number of offences for the quarter being relatively small.

Maintenance work has been carried out at every opportunity. The ship has no major mechanical problems. As no engineer officer has been borne during the period under report the engine-room personnel are to be commended.

The required standard of external and internal cleanliness have been regained, following refitting.

On the occasion of transferring from the Darwin Command it is desired to state that great assistance has been given to Commanding Officers of A.M.S. vessels on this station by the provision of an Accountant Officer (Independent Commands).

This has resulted in a valuable liaison between the ship and base and staff officers concerned with its administration and queries relating to service certificates, advancements, store accounts etc. have been quickly and correctly dealt with.

The view is generally held that the non-provision for a writer in the scheme of complement for these ships imposes a great deal of non-operational work and study on the Commanding Officers.

The provision of an Accountant Officer as stated above has gone far towards remedying this defect and the hope is expressed that similar arrangements will be found to have been made on any future stations to which the ship may be assigned.

RESTRICTED
SECRET

- 3 -

MONTHLY FIGURES: Distance Steamed: 3,688 miles
(June, 1944) Hours under way : 319
Average distance
per ton of fuel : 14.63

TOTAL FIGURES: Total distance steamed: 31,504 miles
Total hours under way : 3369.58
Average Speed : 9.35 knots.



A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'George John'.

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

127B

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY.

2026/7/1108

RESTRICTED

MINUTE PAPER.

SUBJECT: H.M.A.S. "COOTAMUNDRA"

- REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS.

May, 1944.

S.N.B.

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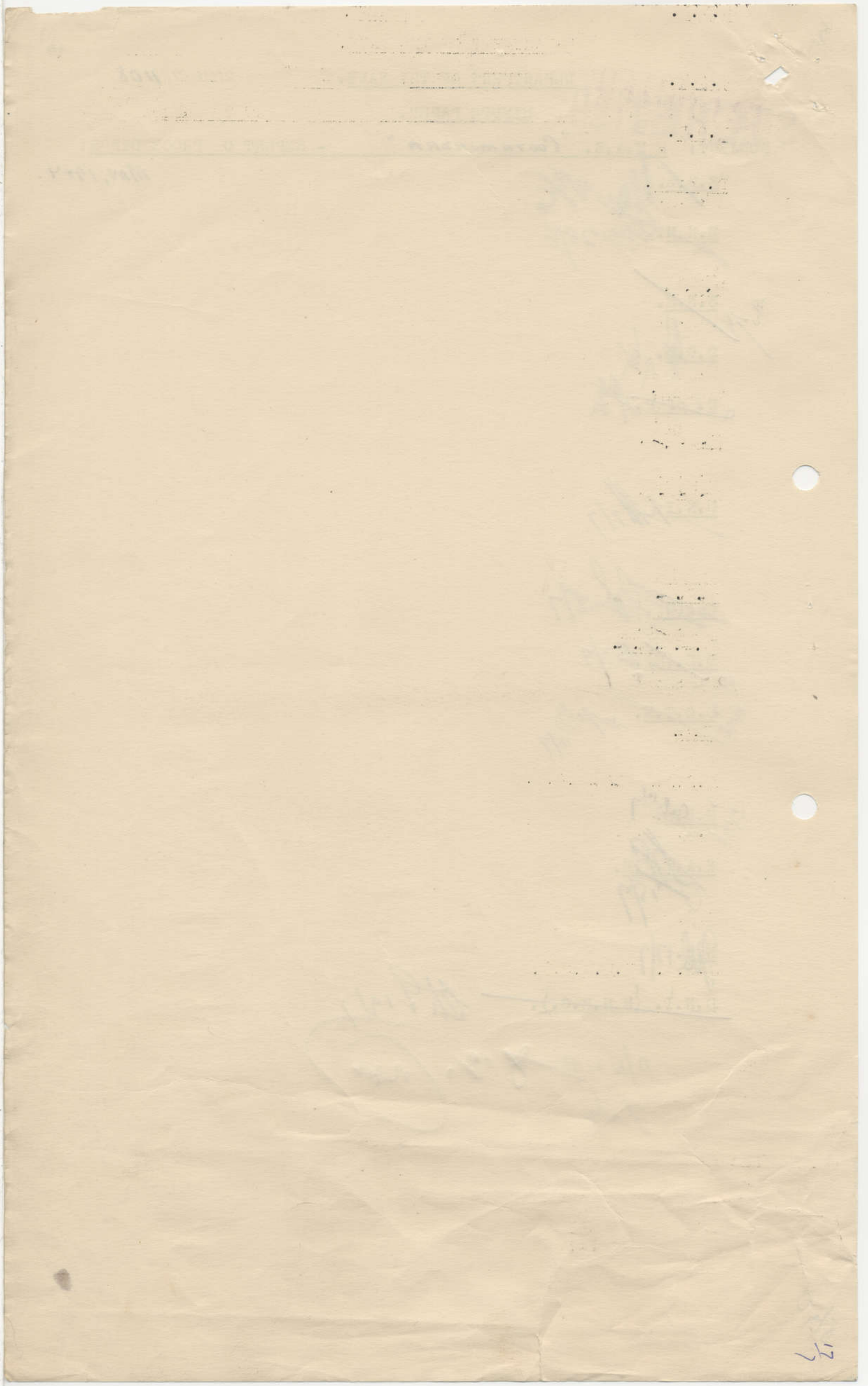
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95B

Commanding Officer H.M.A.S. "COOTAMUNDRA"'s letter R.P.13
dated 4th June, 1944

DEPT. OF NAVY
2026/7/1108
SECRET

File # P15
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43

ACK BY. A.S. 1330Y
23 JUN 1944
INIT. M

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS, MAY, 1944

II

N.T. 0600/32

The Secretary,
NAVAL BOARD.

2026/6
H.N. 106
3

Submitted for the information of the Naval
Board with reference to the abovequoted Navy Office letter.

[Handwritten signature] 27/4/44

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A/CAPTAIN R.A.N.

27/6
29/6
NS

Naval Headquarters,
DARWIN, N.T.,
16th. June, 1944.

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Commonwealth of Australia

Department of The Navy.

RESTRICTED

Royal Australian Navy.

From Commanding Officer, H.M.A.S. "COOTAMUNDRA"
 Date 4th June, 1944 Reference No. R.P. 13
 To Naval Officer-in-Charge, Darwin, N.T.
 Subject REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS - MONTH OF MAY, 1944

Submitted in accordance with Navy Office Secret Memorandum number 589/201/870 of 1st April, 1943, the following report of proceedings for the month of May, 1944:-

Ship was in dockyard hands for annual refit at Garden Island, Sydney, during the month of May, 1944.

Refitting was completed on 31st May, and programme of trials listed to commence on 1st June.

During period of refit long leave of twenty-one days was granted to personnel. The conduct of the ship's company during period of stay in Sydney has been most gratifying, the number of offences of absence over leave to be anticipated on return from detached service being very small.

The health of the ship's company continues to be satisfactory.

Monthly figures and Total Figures remain as shown in my R.P.12 dated 16th May, 1944.

George John

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



23/6

927



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY,

2026/7/1108

RESTRICTED

MINUTE PAPER.

SUBJECT: F. I. A. S. "COOTAMUNDRA" - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS.

APRIL, 1944.

S.N.B.

2.N.M.

3.N.M.

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

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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY.
MINUTE PAPER.

3644.

Feb

SUBJECT: H.M. at "Cootamundra". Letter of Proceedings

D.P.S. f' 7/6

sent

for H.M. Dept

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DEPT. OF NAVY
2026/7/1108
SECRET

The Commanding Officer, H.M.A.S. "COOTAMUNDRA". letter
R.P./12 dated 16th May, 1944.

AP 15
9/43

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RESTRICTED

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS - MONTH OF APRIL, 1944.

II.

N.T.0600/32

HN

The Secretary,
Naval Board.

Submitted for the information of the Naval Board with
reference to the above quoted Navy Office Letter.

ACK. BY R.S. 1830Y
- 5 JUN 1944
INIT. *M*

B.B. Bolduan
A/CAPTAIN.

Naval Headquarters,
Darwin, N.T.
30th May, 1944.

6
6P

RESTRICTED

From..... Commanding Officer, H.M.A.S. "COOTAMUNDRA".

Date..... 16th May, 1944 Ref. No R.P./12

To Naval Officer-in-Charge, Darwin N.T.

SECRET

SUBJECT: REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS - MONTH OF APRIL, 1944

Submitted in accordance with Navy Office Secret Memorandum number 589/201/870 of 1 April, 1943 the following report of proceedings for the month of April, 1944:-

On 1st April ship was on passage from West Bay (Napier Broome Bay) to Darwin escorting S.S. "WILLIAM PROWSE" (U.S.A.). Then passage was without incident, both ships entering Darwin boom at 1900 kl, 1st April.

Ship cleared Darwin at 1010 KL, 3rd April, escorting S.S. "WILLIAM PROWSE" to Thursday Island. No untoward incident occurred during this voyage, "COOTAMUNDRA" anchoring in Normanby Sound at 1910 K, 6th April, when S.S. "WILLIAM PROWSE" continued on passage to Townsville.

Ship departed from Thursday Island harbour at 1340K 8th April, on passage to Sydney via Townsville for annual refit. Passage to Townsville was without incident, ship entering harbour at 0800K, 11th April, and departing after fuelling at 1500K, 11th April.

No untoward incident occurred during the voyage to Sydney, ship entering harbour at 2200K, 15th April, being seven hours late due to heavy south-west weather on the N.S.W. coast.

Period 16th - 19th April was spent in de-storing, de-ammunitioning, preparatory to refit.

Ship remained in dockyard hands at end of period under report.

MONTHLY FIGURES:- Distance steamed: 2811.2 miles
Hours under way: 275.hrs 21.min
Average distance
per ton of fuel: 12. 7 miles

TOTAL FIGURES:- Total distance steamed: 27,816 miles
Total hours under way: 3050. 58
Average speed: 9. 12 knots.

The main body of the ship's company has been sent on long leave from 19th April, Care & Maintenance Party being drawn from Sydney natives. It is anticipated that all interstate personnel will receive twenty-one days leave and that Sydney personnel will receive fourteen days subject to extension.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "C. J. ...".

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

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2026/7/1108

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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY.
MINUTE PAPER.

3644.

SUBJECT: Amas "COOTAMUNDRA" - REPORT OF PROCEEDING - MARCH, 1944.

~~S.N.B. 19/4~~

~~2 N.M. 20/4~~

~~3 N.M. 26/4~~

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~~200. 33/4~~

~~200. 34/4~~

~~200. 35/4~~

~~200. 36/4~~

Foster's plans

~~NHRO 28/4~~
~~A/NHRO 29/4~~
~~29/4~~

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
MINUTE PAPER

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6/15

ACK. BY. A.S. 1330Y
10 APR 1944
INIT. *GA*

DEPT. OF NAVY
2026.7.1108
SECRET

The Commanding Officer, H.M.A.S. "Cootamundra's"
Letter R/P11 dated 2nd April, 1944.

~~SECRET RESTRICTED~~
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS - ^{March} FEBRUARY, 1944.

N.T. 0600/32 II

The Secretary, Naval Board,

Submitted for the information of the
Naval Board with reference to the above quoted Navy
Office letter.

Naval Headquarters
Darwin
4th April, 1944

BB Bolduan
A/CAPTAIN.

12/1/4

D.P.S. 13/4

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RESTRICTED

N.T.0600/32

From Commanding Officer, H.M.A.S. "Cootamundra".

Date 2 April, 1944 Ref. No. R.P./11.

To Naval Officer-in-Charge, Darwin N.T.

SUBJECT: REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS - MONTH OF MARCH, 1944.

Submitted in accordance with Navy Office Secret Memorandum number 589/201/870 of 1 April, 1943 the following report of proceedings for the month of March, 1944:-

On 1 March ship was on passage from Thursday Island to Darwin escorting S.S. "William Prowse" (U.S.A.). Both ships entered Darwin Boom at 2000 KL, 1st. March.

During the period 2 - 6 March boiler cleaning was carried out. Various departmental inspections by Base Staff Officers were conducted during this time.

At 0619 KL, 8th. March ship cleared Darwin Boom escorting S.S. "William Prowse" to West Bay. The voyage was without incident both ships anchoring in West Bay at 1408 KL on 9th. March.

The remainder of the month was spent in West Bay as guard ship to S.S. "William Prowse" discharging R.A.A.F. equipment. Ship remained at immediate notice for steam and second degree of readiness. Evolutions were exercised daily.

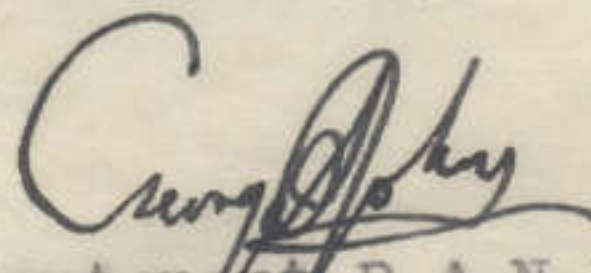
On 25th. March ship proceeded out of West Bay to intercept H.M.A.S. "Bombo" for mails in vicinity of Biré Island. While patrolling in this area at 1050 KL two aircraft were sighted flying towards the ship at 4,000 feet. They continued flying toward the ship and fire was opened at 1052 KL as neither aircraft carried out any form of identification although ship was challenging continuously. Both planes turned away when they realised that they were under fire and made a circuitous course toward Drysdale where they appeared to land. It was subsequently learned that both planes were friendly. A separate report on this incident has been forwarded.

The health and conduct of the ship's company continues to be very satisfactory.

With the improvement of weather conditions it has been possible to carry out a full programme of maintenance work and exercises. The appearance and condition of the ship has been kept up to standard in all departments.

MONTHLY FIGURES:- Distance steamed: 695.8 miles
Hours under way: 69 hours 56 minutes
Average distance per ton of fuel: 11.935 miles.

TOTAL FIGURES:- Total distance steamed: 25,004.8 miles
Total hours under way: 2775.233
Average speed: 9.01 knots.


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



12/4



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY.
MINUTE PAPER.

2026 / 7/1108

3644.

SUBJECT: Amas "COOTAMUNDRA" - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS - FEBRUARY 1944

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~~S.V.B. Am 23/3~~

~~2 AM Com 24/3~~

~~for 27/3/44 3 AM 31.3.44~~

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~~Mr B 4/4 Lab 4~~

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(N.I.)

Approved
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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

MINUTE PAPER

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APPROVED BY A.S. 1330Y
13 MAR 1944
INIT. *msj*

DEPT. OF NAVY
2026-7-1108
SECRET

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43

SECRET

The Commanding Officer, H.M.A.S. "Cootamundra's" letter RE/10 dated 2nd March, 1944.

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS - MONTH OF FEBRUARY, 1944.

II.

N.T. 0600/32

The Secretary,
Naval Board.

Submitted for the information of the Naval Board with reference to the above quoted Navy Office letter.

BB Biddeman
A/CAPTAIN.

Naval Headquarters
Darwin.
7th March, 1944.

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RESTRICTED

From..... Commanding Officer, H.M.A.S. "COOTAMUNDRA"

Date..... 2nd March, 1944 Ref. No. R.P./10

To Naval Officer in Charge- DARWIN, N.T.

Subject..... REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS-MONTH OF FEBRUARY, 1944

Submitted in accordance with Navy Office Secret Memorandum 589/201/870 of 1/4/43 the following report of proceedings for the month of February, 1944:

On 1 st. February, 1944 ship was on passage from Darwin to Thursday Island, escorting s.s. ARICKEREE (U.S. tanker) to Normanby Sound, speed of advance being eleven knots. No untoward incident occurred during the voyage, both ships entering Normanby Sound at 1130L, 3rd February. COOTAMUNDRA entered Thursday Island harbour, ARICKEREE continuing on passage to Cairns.

Ship cleared Normanby Sound at 0915L, 4th February, escorting s.s. SCHWE DAGON (Br.) and s.s. ANTHONY RIVALLI (U.S.) to Darwin, speed of advance being nine knots. This speed was not maintained by SCHWE DAGON, owing to strong westerly set. All ships entered Darwin Boom at 1352KL, 8th February. The voyage was without incident. H.M.A.S. INVERELL, escorting four ships, bound opposite was passed in the western approaches to Clarence Strait.

Ship cleared Darwin Boom at 0327KL, 10th February, escorting s.s. BURWAH (Br.) to Napier Broome Bay anchorages. No untoward incident occurred during the passage, both ships anchoring in West Bay at 1235KL, 11th February. BURWAH commenced discharge of cargo to R.A.A.F.; COOTAMUNDRA remaining at immediate notice for steam and in second degree of readiness (cruising watch routine). Both ships cleared West Bay at 1800KL, 14th February, proceeding to Mission Cove (Drysdale Area) for discharge of remainder of cargo for R.A.A.F. Both ships anchored in Mission Cove at 2000KL, 14th February, notice for steam and state of readiness remaining as above. No untoward incident occurred during the operations in these waters, both ships proceeding for Darwin on completion of discharge of cargo at 1611KL, 16th February. Darwin Boom was entered at 2045KL, 17th February.

Ship cleared Darwin Boom at 0748 KL, 20th February, escorting s.s. BURWAH to Millingimbi for discharge of cargo to R.A.A.F. Both ships anchored off Millingimbi Island at 1842KL, 21st February, the passage being without incident. COOTAMUNDRA remained at immediate notice for steam and in second degree of readiness. On completion of discharge of cargo at 0720KL, 25th February, both ships continued on passage to Thursday Island. No untoward incident occurred during the voyage, both ships entering Normanby Sound at 0720KL, 27th February.

At 1737KL of the same day ship cleared Normanby Sound, escorting s.s. WILLIAM PROWSE to Darwin. Between Booby Island and Cape Wessel a total of three hours delay was occasioned by stoppages necessitated by defects in steering gear of WILLIAM PROWSE. Between Cape Wessel and Cape Den the speed of advance (10½ kts.) was barely maintained owing to strong N.W. wind and rough sea. Both ships entered Darwin Boom at 2000KL, 1 st March.

lab

The health and conduct of the ship's company continues to be very satisfactory.

Programme of maintenance and exercises has been maintained, though impeded to some extent by the unsettled weather prevailing during the North-west season.

MONTHLY FIGURES: Distance steamed: 3480 miles
Hours under way : 360. 3
Average distance
per ton of fuel : 15.32 miles

Total Figures Total distance steamed: 24,309 miles
Total Hours under way : 2705. 3
Average speed : 8. 98 knots.



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

2026/7/1108

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY.
MINUTE PAPER.

3644.

SUBJECT: Alvaro Cootamundra - Report of Proceedings - JANUARY, 1944

SECRET RESTRICTED

S.N.B. Jan 23/4
2 N.M. [unclear]

1/28/2/44

~~D.O.O.~~ 11/3/3

for C.P. #6/3
D.A. #7/3
of (N). Dec 7/3

for D.C.(N). #29/2.
D.O. Jan 9/3

K.P.B. Jul 16/3

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Alvaro
A.H.H.R.O. #22/3
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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

MINUTE PAPER

10/10/1918

REPORT OF COMMANDER

11/1

1/3

The Commanding Officer, H.M.A.S. "COOTAMUNDRA'S" letter R.P.9, dated 9th February, 1944.

DEPT. OF NAVY
2026/7/1108
SECRET

SECRET RESTRICTED

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS - MONTH OF JANUARY, 1944.

HP. 15/9/43.

II
ACK. BY A.S. 1330Y
17 FEB 1944
INIT. *[Signature]*

N.T. 0600/32.

The Secretary,
NAVAL BOARD.

[Handwritten initials]
18/2/44

Submitted for the information of the Naval Board with reference to Navy Office letter No. 589/201/870, dated 27th October, 1942.

[Handwritten signature]
A/CAPTAIN.

Naval Headquarters,
DARWIN.
11th February, 1944.

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RESTRICTED

From Commanding Officer, H.M.A.S. "Cootamundra".

Date 9 February, 1944 Ref. No. R.P. 9.

To Naval Officer-in-Charge, Darwin N.T. —

SUBJECT: REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS - MONTH OF JANUARY, 1944.

Submitted in accordance with Navy Office Secret memorandum Number 589/201/870 the following report of proceedings for the month of January, 1944:-

On 1 January, 1944 ship was on passage from Thursday Is. to Darwin escorting S.S. "Schwedagon", S.S. "Admiral Chase" and S.S. "Alagna" to Darwin. All ships were passed through Darwin Boom at 1850 KL, 2 January.

During the period 3 - 5 January ship was docked for periodical cleaning of bottom and inspection of underwater fittings.

Ship cleared Darwin Boom at 0800 KL, 6 January escorting S.S. "Schwedagon", S.S. "Admiral Chase", and S.S. "Alagna" to Thursday Island, speed of advance being seven knots. No untoward incident occurred during the voyage, all ships arriving at Normanby Sound at 1400 KL, 10 January, 1944. H.M.A.S. "Cootamundra" entered Port Kennedy, the ships of the Convoy continuing on passage to Cairns.

During the period 11 - 16 January Boiler Cleaning was carried out. During the period 17 - 24 January maintenance programme was continued and evolutions exercised. Exercises at estimating height of Aircraft were carried out in co-operation with R.A.A.F.

Ship cleared Normanby Sound at 0400 L, 25 January, escorting S.S. "Aldinga" and S.S. "Arickaree" to Darwin, speed of advance being 8 knots. No untoward incident occurred during the voyage, all ships being passed through the Darwin Boom at 1418 KL, 29 January.

Ship cleared Darwin Boom at 1055 KL, 31 January, escorting S.S. "Arickaree", to Thursday Island, speed of advance being 11 knots. The voyage was without incident, ships remaining on passage at the end of the period under report.

The health and conduct of the ships Company continues to be very satisfactory.

Maintenance programme has been kept up to date and has not, so far, been retarded by the rainy and unsettled weather experienced.

MONTHLY FIGURES: Distance steamed: 1945.7 miles
 Hours under way: 244 hours, 16 minutes
 Average distance per
 ton of fuel: 13.9 miles

TOTAL FIGURES: Total distance steamed: 20,829 miles
(From date of Total hours under way: 2,345 hours.
Commissioning, Average speed: 8.88 knots.
30 April, 1943)



A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Craig John".

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

2026/7/1108

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY.
MINUTE PAPER.

3644.

SUBJECT: *Am. Co. COOTAMUNDRA - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS - DECEMBER, 1943.*

SECRET RESTRICTED

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8/2/44 9/2

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1/2 9/2

P.C. d.O.

W.D. 9/2 E.

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A/N. 11/20
2/11*

(N. 1)

John



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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
MINUTE PAPER

RESTRICTED

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U.S. NAVY
-4 FEB 1944
U.S. NAVY

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2/10

14/1
COMMANDING OFFICER, H.M.A.S. "COOTAMUNDRA'S" LETTER R.P. 8 dated 3 January, 44.

17

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS - MONTH OF DECEMBER, 1943.

SECRET

NOT BY A.S. 1830Y
12 JAN 1944
INIT. *[Signature]*

DEPT. OF NAVY
2026/7/1108
SECRET

HP
15/9/43

II.

N.T. 0600/32.

The Secretary,
NAVAL BOARD.

*[Handwritten: JAN 12/11
A 13/11]*

Submitted for the information of the Naval Board
with reference to Navy Office letter No. 589/201/870 dated
27th October, 1942.

[Handwritten Signature: Bob Beldam]

A/CAPTAIN.

Naval Headquarters,
DARWIN.
6th January, 1944.

[Handwritten: D.S. [Signature] 15/1/44]

[Handwritten: D.C. [Signature] 17/1/44]

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SECRETED
RESTRICTED

From Commanding Officer, H.M.A.S. "Cootamundra".

Date 3 January, 1944 Ref. No. R.P. 8.

To Naval Officer-in-Charge, Darwin N. T.

Subject: REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS - MONTH OF DECEMBER, 1943.

Submitted in accordance with Navy Office Secret memorandum Number 589/201/870 the following report of proceedings for the month of December, 1943:-

Ship departed from Thursday Island at 1900 L, 1st. December, 1943, escorting M.V. "Wanaka" to Darwin, speed of advance being 11 knots. No untoward incident occurred during the voyage, both ships passing the Darwin Boom at 1416 KL, 4th. December.

Departmental Inspections were carried out by the Principal Medical Officer and the Port A/S. Officer, on 6th. and 7th. December, respectively.

Ship departed from Darwin at 1345 KL, 8 December, escorting M.V. "Wanaka" to Thursday Island via Melville Bay. Both ships anchored in Melville Bay at 1016 KL, 10 December. During the period 10 - 13 December, while cargo was being discharged from "Wanaka", "Cootamundra" remained at immediate notice for steam and in second degree of readiness (cruising watches.)
Passage to Thursday Island was continued at 1820 KL, 13 December. No untoward incident occurred during the voyage, "Cootamundra" anchoring in Normanby Sound at 2300 L, 14 December, 1943, and "Wanaka" continuing on passage to Cairns.

*Contradiction
in terms*
WJH

During the period 15 - 27 December, 1943 a considerable amount of maintenance work was carried out and evolutions exercised. Exercise Strafing attacks by Kittyhawks were carried out daily by arrangement with R.A.A.F. On 17 December, Sailing and Pulling races, in competition with other ships of the Flotilla, were held. Intership Rifle Shooting Contests were held on 18 December.

Ship departed from Thursday Island at 1500 L, 28 December, escorting Convoy T.D. 40 (tanker "Schwedagoh", S.S. "Alagna", and S.S. "Admiral Chase") to Darwin, speed of advance being 6½ knots. No untoward incident occurred during the voyage all ships being passed through Darwin Boom at 1850 KL 2 January, 1944.

The health and conduct of the Ship's Company continues to be very satisfactory.

Maintenance work has been carried out at every opportunity and the appearance and condition of the ship has been kept up to standard in all departments.

MONTHLY FIGURES	Distance steamed:	2265 miles
	Hours under way :	229
	Average distance	
	per ton of fuel :	14.5 miles ✓

TOTAL FIGURES (from date of commissioning- 30th April, 1943)	Total distance steamed:	18,883 miles
	Total hours under way :	2,100.7
	Average speed :	8.99 knots.



George John
Lieutenant, R.A.N.R(S)
Commanding Officer.

12/1

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY.
MINUTE PAPER.

2026/7/1108

3643....

SUBJECT: *HMAS "Cootamundra" - PROCEEDINGS - NOVEMBER 1943*

SECRET RESTRICTED

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P.C.D.O.

N.H.R.O. 14/12
A.H.R.O. 15/12
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Case 11/10/14

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
MINUTE PAPER

Subject: [Faint, illegible text]

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14

¹⁸
Commanding Officer, H.M.A.S. "Cootamundra's" letter R.P./7 dated 1 Decr., 1943.

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS - MONTH OF NOVEMBER, 1943.

DEPT. OF NAVY
2026/7/1108
SECRET

15 DEC 1943

UNIT

RESTRICTED

II.

N.T. 0600/32.

The Secretary,
NAVAL BOARD.

Submitted for the information of the Naval Board with reference to Navy Office letter No. 589/201/870 dated 27th October, 1943.

Naval Headquarters,
DARWIN.

9th December, 1943.

A.R. Hasbun
COMMODORE.

17/12

25/12

21/12

[Handwritten mark]

RESTRICTED

From Commanding Officer, H.M.A.S. "COOTAMUNDRA"

Date 1 st. December, 1943. Ref. No. R.P./7

To Naval Officer in Charge - DARWIN

Subject REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS- MONTH OF NOVEMBER, 1943.

Submitted in accordance with Navy Office Secret Memorandum 589/201/870, the following Report of Proceedings for the month of November, 1943:

During period 1st-3rd November departmental inspections of the ship were carried out by the Base Accountant Officer and Base Gunnery Officer at DARWIN.

Ship cleared Boom at 1400kl, 4th November, escorting M.V. "TULAGI" and s.s. "KOOLIGA" to Thursday Island. No untoward incident occurred during the voyage, all ships arriving at Normanby Sound at 2000L, 8th November; COOTAMUNDRA entered harbour, both merchant ships continuing on passage to Cairns.

Ship departed from Thursday Island harbour at 1900L, 12th Nov., escorting s.s. "YARRA" with H.M.A. M.L. 429 in tow and s.s. "TIME" to DARWIN. At 0500kL, 15th November, in position 11°15' S, 135°37' E, M.L. 429 was detached to proceed to rendezvous H.M.A.S. "PREMANTLE" at Milingimbi Bar (N.O.I.C. Darwin's 140317z refers). H.M.A.S. "LATROBE" escorting two ships was passed in Dundas Strait at 1500kL, 16th November. All ships were passed through Darwin Boom at 1623kL, 17th Nov.

Boiler cleaning was carried out at Darwin during the period 18th-20th November. A departmental inspection was carried out by the Base C.B. Officer.

Ship cleared Darwin Boom at 1200kL, 21st November, escorting s.s. "YARRA" and s.s. "TIME" to Thursday Island. Fresh E.S.E breeze and rough head sea were experienced between Cape Wessel and Booby Island, causing the speed of advance to fall to four knots. All ships arrived at Normanby Sound at 1400L, 26th November, being eleven hours late. "COOTAMUNDRA" entered Thursday Island harbour, both merchant ships continuing on passage to Cairns.

During period 27th-30th November, various evolutions were exercised. The use of the Army rifle range was obtained for small arms exercises. By arrangement with R.A.A.F. (Horn Island) exercise strafing attacks on the ship were carried out for forty-five minutes by eight Kittyhawks. All aspects of "Repel Aircraft" were exercised. Arrangements have been made for similar exercises in co-operation as opportunity offers .

The health and conduct of the ship's company continues to be very satisfactory.

Maintenance work has been carried out at every opportunity and the appearance and cleanliness of the ship have been maintained. Difficulty is experienced in keeping the external appearance of the ship up to standard, owing to the lack of durability in the paints required for this ship's camouflage. The condition of the side, a few weeks after ship has been painted, is disappointing.

A separate report has been rendered on the subject of painting of steel decks in cabins, mess decks and flats in ships which are not supplied with cortisene, under the policy of reduction of fire and smoke risk.

MONTHLY FIGURES

Distance steamed: 2485 miles

Hours underway : 314.5

Average distance
per ton of fuel : 14.9 miles.

TOTAL FIGURES
(from date of
commissioning
- 30th April,
1943)

16,618 miles - Total distance steamed

1871.7 hours - Total hours under way

8.88 knots - Average speed.



George R. Halfhill

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

Sally

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2026/7/1108

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

MINUTE PAPER

SUBJECT: Aucas "Costamunda" - Proceedings for October, 1943

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COMMANDING OFFICER, H.M.A.S. "COOTAMUNDRA'S" LETTER DATED 1ST. NOV. 1943

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS - MONTH OF OCTOBER, 1943.

DEPT. OF NAVY
2026/7/1108
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N.T. 0600/32

ACK. BY A.S. 1330Y

II

The Secretary,
NAVAL BOARD.

13 NOV 1943

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15/9/43

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Submitted for the information of the Naval Board with reference to Navy Office Letter 589/201/870 dated 27th October, 1942.

15/11/43

COMMODORE

~~D.P.S. (later)~~ 14/12

Naval Headquarters,
DARWIN, N.T.
8th November, 1943.

Scus per 18/11
17/11/43

M. H. for the 19/11

17/11

14

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RESTRICTED

From Commanding Officer, H.M.A.S. "COOTAMUNDRA"

Date 1 st. November, 1943. Ref. No. R.P./6

To Naval Officer in Charge - DARWIN

Subject REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS- MONTH OF OCTOBER, 1943.

Submitted in accordance with Navy Office Secret Memorandum 589/201/870, the following Report of Proceedings for the month of October, 1943:

Ship departed from Thursday Island harbour at 1400k, 1 st October, escorting s.s. "Ulcolee" to Darwin, speed of advance being 10 knots. No untoward incident occurred during the voyage, both ships passing through Darwin boom at 1748 kl, 4th October.

Ship remained at Darwin during period 5th-9th October, assuming duty as A/A guardship.

Ship cleared Darwin Boom at 0800kl, 10th October, escorting s.s. "Ulcolee" to Thursday Island. Full calibre firing practice was carried out at outer end of searched channel. Results of this practice were considered to be very satisfactory.

H.M.A.S. "Inverell" escorting m.v. "Wanaka" bound towards Darwin was passed at 1120kl, 11th October.

H.M.A.S. "Fremantle" escorting s.s. "Dundula" towards Darwin was passed at 2235kl, 11th October.

Ship entered Thursday Island harbour at 0800L, 13th October, s.s. "Ulcolee" continuing on passage towards Cairns in execution of previous orders.

Double L sweeping was carried out on 16th October in the approaches to Normanby Sound, in company with H.M.A.S. "Latrobe".

All evolutions were exercised and ship's maintenance programme continued during period 17th-25th October.

Ship was anchored in Normanby Sound on 26th October and departure for Darwin was taken at 0300L, 27th October, escorting m.v. "Tulagi" and s.s. "Kooliga", speed of advance being 8 knots.

No untoward incident occurred during the voyage, all ships being inside Darwin Boom 1350KL, 31st October.

The health and conduct of the ship's company continues to be very satisfactory.

Maintenance and Training programmes are showing satisfactory results.

MONTHLY FIGURES	Distance steamed:	2306 miles
	Hours under way :	261.2 hours
	Average distance per ton of fuel :	16.0 miles

TOTAL FIGURES	Total distance steamed :	14,133 miles
	Total hours under way :	1557.2
	Average Speed :	9.07 kts.



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

18/10 26/11

2026/7/1108

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY



MINUTE PAPER

SUBJECT: *HMAS "Coastamundra" - Monthly Report for September 1943.*

As 16/10

~~SECRET RESTRICTED~~
D. P. S. At 18/10

~~D. C. N. S. P. S. H. A.~~

18/11 N. M. for 21/10

See

~~S. N. B. from 26/10~~
~~2 N. M. Dec 26/10~~
~~3 N. M. for 1/11~~
~~DDO 12/11~~
~~DGP 15/11~~
~~D. N. G. 15/11~~
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~~D. E. S.~~
~~DDM 17/11~~
~~D. N. R. M. 20/11~~
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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

MINUTE PAPER



SUBJECT: *Minutes - Monthly Report for September 1943*

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A. P. 2. 1/2*

1st Lt. [unclear] 1/2

A. C. N. 2. 1/2

1st Lt. [unclear] 1/2

1st Lt. [unclear] 1/2



1st Lt. [unclear] 1/2

1st Lt. [unclear] 1/2

P. C. 2. 1/2

1/2

Commanding Officer, H.M.A.S. "COOTAMUNDRA's" letter R.P./5 dated 1st Oct., 1943.

ACK. BY A.S. 15 OCT 1943
INIT. *msf*

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS - MONTH OF SEPTEMBER, 1943.

DEPT. OF NAVY
2026/7/1108
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15/9/43

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II.

N.T. 0600/32.

The Secretary,
NAVAL BOARD.

HN 15/10/43

Submitted for the information of the Naval Board with reference to Navy Office letter 589/201/870 dated 27th October, 1942.

A.R. Searby

COMMODORE.

Naval Headquarters,
DARWIN.
8th October, 1943.

16/10/43

SECRET

From Commanding Officer, H.M.A.S. "COOTAMUNDRA"
Date 1 st. October, 1943. Ref. No. R.P./5
To Naval Officer in Charge - DARWIN
Subject REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS - MONTH OF SEPTEMBER, 1943.

Submitted in accordance with Navy Office Secret Memorandum 589/201/870, the following Report of Proceedings for the month of September, 1943:

At 0230ik, 1st September, ship proceeded from Darwin with H.M.A.S. VIGILANT under orders of H.M.A.S. "Latrobe", escorting s.s. BAN HONG LIONG and s.s. TIME to Thursday Island, speed of advance being eight knots. No untoward incident occurred during the voyage, all ships being anchored in Normanby Sound at 2300k, 4th September.

During the period 5th-12th September, ship remained at Thursday Island, a programme of maintenance work being carried out.

At 0300k, 13th September, ship departed from Normanby Sound escorting s.s. YARRA, s.s. Matthew Flinders and s.s. Kurumba to Darwin. Speed of advance (eight knots) was exceeded, the necessity of anchoring to await daylight passage through Clarence Strait being thereby avoided and convoy arriving at Darwin twenty-one hours early in consequence. All ships were entered through Darwin Boom at 1540ik, 16th September.

During the period 17th-21st September, boiler cleaning was carried out in Darwin. Ship's medical organisation was inspected by Principal Medical Officer. "L.L." Sweep equipment was inspected, by Base Torpedo Officer.

At 0330ik, 22nd September ship proceeded from Darwin escorting s.s. YARRA and s.s. MATTHEW FLINDERS to Thursday Island. No untoward incident occurred during the voyage, all ships entering harbour at 1600k, 25th September. Ship remained at Thursday Island during period 26th-30th September.

The health and conduct of the ship's company continues to be very satisfactory. Extensive maintenance work is being carried out. It has been found necessary to scale and red-lead plates and fittings throughout the structure as evidence of mill scale appears.

MONTHLY FIGURES	Distance steamed:	2200 miles
	Hours under way :	264.2
	Average distance per ton of fuel :	16.9 miles

TOTAL FIGURES	Total distance steamed:	11,827 miles
	Total hours under way :	1296
	Average Speed :	9.13 knots

Total Figures are from 30th April, 1943 (date of commissioning)



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

S.M.

6/11

2026/7/1108

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

MINUTE PAPER

SUBJECT: "Quads" "Cochamundra" - Report of Proceedings for August 1943

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~~3NM~~

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P.C.F.O.
10E 10F

Macumbas armament
QF 12p'12 cal 112L A 1 No.
2" UP Puller Box 1 No.
Orlikov 2 No.
Vickers .303 4 No.
4 PAC (D) 4 No.
Penelope



John
10/11/43

6026/11107

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

MINUTE PAPER

OBJECT: *Report of Proceedings for August 1943*

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Account of circumstances
at 10.15 on 11.11.43
27.09.43
20/11/43



Handwritten notes and signatures:
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Commanding Officer, H.M.A.S. "COOTAMUNDAR" letter R.P./4 dated 1st Sept., 1943.

ACK. BY A.S. 1330Y

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS - MONTH OF AUGUST, 1943.

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DEPT. OF NAVY
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HP 15/9/43

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II.

N.T. 0600/32.

The Secretary,
NAVAL BOARD.

10/10/43
10/10/43

Submitted for the information of the Naval Board with reference to the above quoted Navy Office letter.

A.R. Shepherd
COMMODORE.

Naval Headquarters,
DARWIN.
2nd October, 1943.

D.P.S. Bombing of 'Macumba' by 1. also by 2. 9/10

D.C.N.S. Detailed report of action with bombers is forwarded separately 14/10

1st N.M. R 10/10

[Signature]

8/10/43

NY

SECRET

From Commanding Officer, H.M.A.S. "COOTAMUNDRA"
Date 1st. September, 1943. Ref. No. R.P./4
To Naval Officer in Charge- DARWIN.
Subject REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS - MONTH OF AUGUST, 1943.

Submitted in accordance with Navy Office Secret Memorandum 589/201/870, the following Report of Proceedings for the month of August, 1943:

Ship was at Thursday Island during the period 1 st-3rd August, maintenance work and exercises being carried out. At 0844K, 4th August, ship cleared harbour, escorting s.s. "MACUMBA" to Darwin.

At 1058ik, 6th August, in position 11°20' S., 134°39' E., convoy was attacked by two enemy floatplanes (type "Jake"). Both ships opened fire and "COOTAMUNDRA" was manoeuvred to close "MACUMBA". Two bombs, considered 250 lbs., were dropped from about 1500 feet. The first bomb landed about 50 feet on Macumba's port side; the second scored a direct hit in the engineroom.

Preparations to tow were commenced.

At 1147ik when it was obvious that the ship was likely to founder at any minute, the survivors were taken aboard "COOTAMUNDRA".

"Macumba" continued to settle by the stern and sunk at 1400. The Chief Engineer of "Macumba" was missing and three of the 42 survivors were seriously injured.

Course was set for Darwin at 1410ik.

Detailed report on this action was forwarded on arrival at Darwin.

At 0850ik, 7th August, in Dundas Strait, M.L. 814 despatched from Darwin to rendezvous, was identified. Medical Officer boarded "COOTAMUNDRA" at 0907. The Second Engineer of "Macumba" was pronounced dead from the effects of severe scalding.

At 1603 ship was berthed at C.A. Jetty, Darwin. The Donkeyman of "Macumba" died from the effects of shrapnel wounds while ship was being berthed.

During the period 8th-10th August, ship was in floating dock for cleaning and painting of the bottom. Boiler cleaning was carried out, ship reverting to one hour's notice at 0001ik, 12th August.

At 0936ik, 12th August, ship proceeded to sea to exercise "Loop Alarm" with Darwin ships in company; returning to harbour on completion of exercises and securing to buoy at 1227.

During period of Yellow Warning, ship slipped from buoy at 2128ik, 13th August and proceeded towards Talc Head. On receipt of Green Warning, ship returned to G.1. buoy, securing at 2244. Ship again proceeded towards Talc Head at 2250, on receipt of second Yellow Warning. No enemy activity took place within gunnery range of the ship, during the period of Red Warning and fire was not opened. Ship returned to buoy on receipt of Green Warning, securing at 0059ik, 14th August.

Ship proceeded to sea at 0730ik, 16th August, escorting s.s. "CARDROSS" and s.s. "TAMBAR" to Thursday Island (convoy D.T. 29), speed of advance being 5½ knots. No untoward incident occurred during the passage, all ships anchoring in Thursday Island harbour at 1210k, 22nd August.



At 0630K, 23rd August, ship proceeded to sea to search for N.A.P. launch "KAZEMBE". This launch, with Army medical personnel on board, had not been sighted since 1230K, 21st August, at which time it had departed from village on Mulgrave Island (10°10' S., 142°08' E.).

"COOTAMUNDRA" proceeded via Prince of Wales Channel to a position two miles East of Travers Island, thence entering Bramble Channel from the eastward.

Searching aircraft reported missing craft sheltering from rough south-east sea in lee of Whale Island (10°15'S, 142°05'E).

In position 10°15'S, 142°11½E, R/T silence was broken to report to Horn Island (R.A.A.F.) five unidentified planes, flying 200° at 2000 feet (one heavy bomber escorted by four fighters). These planes were later reported to be friendly.

At 1203 "COOTAMUNDRA" was recalled to Thursday Island, all personnel aboard missing craft being safe.

Ship was anchored in Thursday Island harbour at 1645K, 23rd August.

At 1400K, 25th August, ship proceeded to sea, escorting s.s. "BAN HONG LIONG" to Darwin, speed of advance being 10 knots.

No untoward incident occurred during the passage, both ships entering Darwin harbour at 1920ik, 28th August.

Naval Officer in Charge, DARWIN, inspected "COOTAMUNDRA" On 31st August.

The health and conduct of the ship's company continues to be very satisfactory.

Every opportunity has been taken to carry out maintenance work.

It is considered that the ship's organisation for the care of survivors and medical organisation were shown to be particularly good, following the attack on the "Macumba". The efforts and zeal of S.B.A. Williams and his helpers were highly commended by the medical officer despatched from Darwin.

MONTHLY FIGURES	Distance steamed:	2464 miles
	Hours under way :	307.5
	Average distance per ton of fuel:	13.5 miles.

TOTAL FIGURES	Total distance steamed:	9627 miles
	Total hours under way :	1031.8
	Average speed :	9.33 knots

TOTAL FIGURES are from 30th April, 1943 (date of commissioning).

Received unsigned.
Duplicate in office of NOIC D
will be completed at first opportunity
Lieutenant, R.A.N.R(S)
Commanding Officer.

23/9

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

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SUBJECT: H.M. as "Cootamundra" - Report of Proceedings

July 43

ENG. & CONST.
31 AUG 1943
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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

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DEPT. OF NAVY

SUBJECT: H.M.S. "Coastguard" - Report of Proceedings

July 23

BRANCH
31 AUG 1943
ENG. & CONST.

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DEPT. OF NAVY
20 SEP 1943
O.M.R.M.

M.H. Roberts

25/9/52

ACK. BY A.S. 1330Y
16 AUG 1943
INIT. *[Signature]*

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43

The period 27th-31st July was spent in maintenance work and drills. Rifle shooting competitions were carried out against H.M.A.S. "FREMANTLE".

The health of the ship's company continues to be good. Organised games in competition with other ships, shore establishments and other services have been held as opportunity offers.

The conduct of the ship's company is excellent.

The ship has been maintained in a clean and efficient condition.

A comprehensive programme of general training has been carried out.

MONTHLY FIGURES	Distance steamed:	2973 miles.
	Hours under way :	307.6
	Average distance per ton of fuel:	14.22 miles

TOTAL FIGURES	Total distance steamed:	7163 miles
	Total hours under way :	724.3
	Average speed :	9.89 knots

TOTAL FIGURES are from 30th April, 1943 (date of commissioning)

HN

Checked for Indexing
RESTRICTED

George John

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

II.

N.T.0600/32.
The Secretary,
Naval Board.

Submitted for the information of the Naval Board.

A.R. St. John

COMMODORE.

Naval Headquarters,
DARWIN. N.T.
12th August, 1943.

SECRETED
RESTRICTED

From Commanding Officer, H.M.A.S. "COOTAMUNDRA"
Date 1 st. August, 1943 Ref. No. R.P./3 N.T.0600/32
To NAVAL OFFICER IN CHARGE - DARWIN.
Subject REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS - MONTH OF JULY, 1943

Submitted in accordance with Navy Office Secret Memorandum 589/201/870, the following Report of Proceedings for the month of July, 1943:

At 0130K, July 1 st ship proceeded from Newstead Wharf, Brisbane to rendezvous convoy B.V. 73 at position off Caloundra Head at daylight.

Escort was commenced, with H.M.A.S. "FREMANTLE" in company, at 0730K; security patrol was carried out in the approaches to the North-west Channel between 0530K and 0730K, while waiting for convoy to clear the port and form up. Convoy consisted of four ships, speed of advance being twelve knots.

"FREMANTLE" detached and returned to Brisbane, in execution of previous orders, at 0725, 2nd July.

Convoy was dispersed at 2000k, 2nd July at Percy Isles, all ships proceeding independently to Townsville.

No untoward incident occurred throughout the operation.

Ship secured at Concrete Pier, Townsville at 1731K, 3rd July. Fuel and water were replenished and personnel, mails and stores for transport to U.S.S. "MIZAR" of Task Force 74 were embarked. Departure from Townsville was taken at 2250K, ship proceeding at 12 knots towards Thursday Island.

Ship was anchored off Flinders Isles at 1130K, 5th July and personnel, mails and stores for Task Force 74 were transferred to U.S.S. "MIZAR". Passage to Thursday Island was resumed at 1220K.

Ship was anchored in Thursday Island harbour at 1435K, 6th July, no untoward incident having occurred during passage from Townsville. H.M.A.S. "CASTLEMAINE", berthed at jetty, transferred all charge publications and documents relevant to the Darwin Command to "COOTAMUNDRA".

"CASTLEMAINE" departed from Station at 1030K, 7th July.

During the period 7th-12th July a maintenance programme was carried out and various drills and evolutions were exercised.

At 1500K, 13th July ship was berthed alongside s.s. "AROONA" in Normanby Sound and 25 tons of fresh water was taken on board.

At 0300K, 14th July, escort of "AROONA" to Darwin was commenced. No untoward incident occurred during the voyage, both ships berthing at Darwin at 1700K, 17th July.

During the period 18th-21st July the ship was visited by Heads of Departments and technical Officers from shore establishments, organisation being inspected and assistance given.

At 0217K, 22nd July ship proceeded to sea leading s.s. "AROONA", H.M.A.S. "LATROBE" and s.s. "ALAGNA" through Boom to rendezvous tug "FORCEFUL" with target at daylight.

Full calibre firings were commenced at 0745K. Ships dispersed at 0800K, "LATROBE" escorting s.s. "ALAGNA" in execution of previous orders and "COOTAMUNDRA" escorting s.s. "AROONA" to Thursday Island.

No untoward incident occurred during the voyage, both ships securing in Thursday Island harbour at 0935K, 26th July.



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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

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MINUTE PAPER

SUBJECT: H.M.A.S. "COOTAMUNDRA" - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR JUNE, 1943

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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

MINUTE PAPER

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SUBJECT: "COOTAMUNDRA" - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR 1943

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Royal Australian Navy.

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IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE

No. BN0238/3/1.

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NAVY CONFIDENTIAL RECORDS

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Naval Staff Office,
BRISBANE.
8th August, 1943.

The Secretary,
Naval Board,
MELBOURNE.

Checked for
Indexing

LETTER OF PROCEEDINGS - H.M.A.S. "COOTAMUNDRA".

The accompanying submission dated 26th July, 1943, with enclosure, from the Commanding Officer, H.M.A.S. "COOTAMUNDRA", is submitted for the information of the Naval Board.

414/8
#17

D.P.S. Lat (15/28/8)

OCN. 12/8

CAPTAIN.
NAVAL OFFICER-IN-CHARGE.

84 1st Lt. W. [unclear]

Commonwealth of Australia

Department of The Navy.



Royal Australian Navy.

From Commanding Officer, H.M.A.S. "COOTAMUNDRA"
Date 26th July, 1943 Reference No. _____
To Naval Officer in Charge, BRISBANE
Subject REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS- MONTH OF JUNE, 1943.

Submitted:

It has been discovered that Report of Proceedings for month of June, 1943 has not been forwarded on due date, original and duplicate copy having been filed with ship's copy.

This is regretted and suitable action has been taken.

Original and duplicate copies are forwarded herewith, for onward transmission to Naval Board, observing that "COOTAMUNDRA" was under your Administrative Command at the end of the period under report.

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

SECRET

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REPT. OF NAVY
20/11/43

From Commanding Officer, H.M.A.S. "COOTAMUNDRA"

Date 1 st. July, 1943 Ref. No. R.P./2

To SECRETARY, NAVAL BOARD, MELBOURNE

Subject REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS - MONTH OF JUNE, 1943

Submitted in accordance with Navy Office Secret Memorandum 589/201/870, the following Report of Proceedings for the month of June, 1943:

Ship was at Sydney from June 1 st. to June 4th. On June 2nd full calibre firing practices (day) were carried out in company with H.M.A. ships "BENALLA" and "FREMANTLE". Day and night full calibre firing practices were carried out on June 3rd.

Ship proceeded to sea at 2106K, June 4th to rendezvous U.S. merchant ship "John Bartram" (N.O.I.C.S. 030801 June refers). Patrol was carried out in vicinity of rendezvous from 0800K till 1500 K on June 5th. Ship was recalled to Sydney, "John Bartram" having failed to keep rendezvous.

At 1657, June 7th, ship proceeded to sea to rendezvous four U.S. ships(N.O.I.C.S. 060151 June refers). Patrol was commenced in the vicinity of the rendezvous at 0830K ,8th June and was continued till 1700 K, 9th. June when ship was recalled to Sydney. Ships failed to keep rendezvous.

Ship arrived at Sydney at 0712K ,June 11th, remaining in harbour until June 15th.

June 15th, 0730K ship proceeded to sea with H.M.A. ships "Warrnambool", Kalgoorlie" and "Bundaberg" escorting Convoy G.P. 55 . H.M.A.S. "Deloraine" joined as additional escort after dark.

On June 16th, 1719K with ship in position oboe(G.I.E. refers) and all hands closed up for dusk stand-to, s.s. "Portmar" was observed to burst into flames. It was not immediately realised that a second ship(L.S.T.) had been simultaneously torpedoed. Cootamundra's part in ensuing operations is covered by my 170138z to WARRNAMBOOL. This signal was sent in reply to "WARRNAMBOOL'S" 170111z.

WARRNAMBOOL'S" 170111z reads: "Request brief report on your movements from 1715 onwards".

"COOTAMUNDRA" 170138z reads: " Carried out operation Artichoke as laid down making sweep to southward with 'Bundaberg' on my starboard hand. Turned 180 degrees after "Bundaberg" turned to convoy course. Received order from 'Bundaberg' to go to oboe. Was at oboe at 1930K. Obtained no contacts throughout, other than our own ships"

"Cootamundra" was detached from escort group at 0900K, 18th. June when convoy G.P.55 entered Moreton Bay. H.M.A.S. "Rockhampton" replaced "Cootamundra" in the group, "Cootamundra" passing to the operational control of N.O.I.C. Brisbane.

Security patrol was carried out in the approaches to Moreton Bay until 1700K when "Cootamundra" joined H.M.A.S. "Geelong" as escort to convoy B.V. 73. Two U.S. sub-chasers provided additional cover.

U.S.S. "DRAYTON" joined escort at 1530K, 19th. June.

"Cootamundra" and S.C.748 detached from escort, in execution of previous orders, at 0300K, 20th June, returning to Brisbane in company.

Secured at Newstead Wharf, Brisbane at 2249K, 20th June, no untoward incident having occurred throughout the operation.

June 22nd at 1325K ship proceeded to sea with Lieut-Commander Blakely U.S.N. on board to carry out exercises with U.S.

U.S.

Submarine "Scamp". From 2115K, 22nd June till 1700K, 23rd June, attack, counter-attack, shadowing etc were continuously carried out. The results of our deliberate attacks were most encouraging to the ship's A/S team. Particular attention was paid to the training of lookouts. At 1700K, 23rd June "SCAMP" proceeded on passage, "COOTAMUNDRA" returning to Brisbane. Ship secured at Stanley Wharf at 1120K, 24th June.

Both boilers were cleaned during period 25th-29th June.

On 30th June ship reverted to four hours notice and completed fuelling and storing, preparatory to leaving the Station.

The health of the ship's company continues to be good. Conduct is most satisfactory, sobriety and general good behaviour during liberty periods being noteworthy.

The ship has been maintained in a high state of efficiency and cleanliness.

Co-operation between departments is excellent.

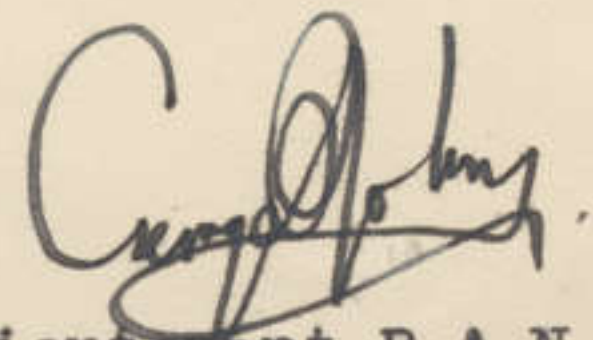
Training in all branches has been carried out at every opportunity.

MONTHLY FIGURES

Distance steamed: 3458 miles
Hours under way : 331.7
Average distance
per ton of fuel : 12.5 miles

TOTAL FIGURES
(date of commissioning
30th April, 1943)

Total distance steamed: 4190 miles
Total hours under way : 416.7
Average speed : 10.05 kts.



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

REF ID: A18 1330Y

(The Commanding Officer, H.M.A.S. "COOTAMUNDRA"'s letter dated 26th July, 1943).

SECRETED
ALSO INDEXED

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR MAY, 1943.

DEPT. OF NAVY
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B.S.2430/250/128
The Secretary,
Naval Board.

Checked [initials]
Indexing

Forwarded for the information of the Naval Board.

Naval Base Headquarters,
Potts Point, Sydney.
14th August, 1943.

G. C. S. J. Gould

A/Rear-Admiral.

D. P. S. Laine R/S 28/8

High

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G. C. S. J. Gould

Commonwealth of Australia

Department of The Navy.

Royal Australian Navy.

From Commanding Officer, H.M.A.S. "COOTAMUNDRA"
 Date 26th July, 1943 Reference No. _____
 To Rear Admiral in Charge - SYDNEY
 Subject REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS - MONTH OF MAY, 1943

Submitted:

It has been discovered that Report of Proceedings for month of May, 1943 was not forwarded on due date, the original and duplicates being filed with ship's copy.

This is regretted and suitable action has been taken to ensure that there is no recurrence.

Original and duplicate copies are forwarded herewith for onward transmission to Naval Board, observing that "COOTAMUNDRA" was under your Administrative Command during the period of the Report.



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



SECRETED *M. Kelly*
19.5.65

From Commanding Officer, H.M.A.S. "COOTAMUNDRA"

To Secretary, Naval Board, MELBOURNE

Date 1 st. June, 1943 Ref. No. R.P./1

Subject REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS- MONTH OF MAY, 1943

Submitted in accordance with Navy Office Secret Memorandum 589/201/870, the following Report of Proceedings for the month of May, 1943:

Ship was commissioned at 1100K, April 30th., at Poole and Steels' Yard, Sydney, with Lieutenant G.A. Johns, R.A.N.R(S) in command.

Ship remained in the hands of the Builders for completion of fitting out until May 7th. (Acceptance Trials). During this period the ship's company was employed in embarking stores, ammunitioning ship etc.

Preliminary Trials were carried out in approaches to Port Jackson on May 4th.

On completion of Acceptance Trials (1400K, May 7th) ship was berthed at Barrack Wharf, Garden Island, remaining at that berth till May 14th.

During this period (ship in Dockyard hands) the ship was visited by Heads of Departments from shore establishments. Gun and Depth Charge drills were carried out under Instructors.

The Mayor and Councillors of the Municipality of Cootamundra were entertained on board on the afternoon of May 14th.

L.L. cable was embarked on May 15th. and ship proceeded to sea at 1350K to act as local escort to Sydney section of C.O. convoy. Ship returned to harbour at 1717K, remaining at immediate notice (Duty Ship).

*"City Services Boat
which became a total
wreck. M.S."*

Ship proceeded to sea at 0815K, May 16th, to render assistance to merchant vessel reported aground at Bass Point. At 1400K V/S communication was established with stricken vessel which was apparently a total loss on dangerous lee shore in bight to the northward of Bass Pt. W/T silence was broken to report to Sydney that all personnel were safe and that no assistance was required. Ship was recalled to Sydney, securing at 0320K, May 17th.

This operation was carried out in a fresh S.S.E. gale.

Ship remained at Sydney from May 18th to May 22nd; D.G. ranging, compass adjustment, L.L. trials and various evolutions being carried out during this period.

On May 22nd at 0615K ship proceeded to Broken Bay, with H.M.A.S. "Fremantle" in company, to carry out working-up programme. Ship remained at not less than one hour's notice from time of anchoring in Cowan Creek (0835K, May 22nd) till final departure from Broken Bay (0120K, May 30th).

During this period the full working-up programme, as laid down by Staff Officer Independent Commands (Sydney) was carried out. On May 24th at 2316K ship was dispatched to rendezvous off Newcastle to act as local escort to Newcastle section of C.O. convoy. At 0628K, May 25th, N.O.I.C. Newcastle instructed Cootamundra (standing off Newcastle) to proceed independently as sailings had been cancelled. Secured at previous anchorage in Cowan Creek (Broken Bay) at 1130K, May 25th.

Final departure from Broken Bay was taken at 0120K, May 30th, ship proceeding to position 060° Macquarie Lt. 70' to rendezvous U.S. merchant ship "Sheldon Jackson", reported to have been unsuccessfully attacked by enemy submarine. At 0745K escort to Sydney was commenced, ships arriving at Sydney Heads at 1410K. No untoward incident occurred during this operation.

operation.

On May 31st, A/s cover was provided for s.s. "River Clarence" carrying out Trials off Port Jackson.

Health of the ship's company has been consistently good.

Conduct of the ship's company has been gratifying and there is an excellent spirit in the ship.

A good deal remains to be accomplished in the way of training and general working-up. This applies more particularly to the Officers, none of whom, with the exception of myself, have had any training afloat under Active Service Officers. It is considered that there is good material in all departments and that a high degree of efficiency will be attained.

MONTHLY AND TOTAL FIGURES(date of commissioning 30th April, 1943)

Distance Steamed:	732 miles (including Trials)
Hours under way :	85
Average distance per ton of fuel :	9.8 miles
Average speed :	8.61 knots.



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