AWM78

Reports of Proceedings, HMA Ships and Establishments

AWM78 Class 436 - Shore Establishment - HMAS LONSDALE, Port Melbourne

File number: AWM78/436/1

Title: AWM78 436/1 - February 1940 - October 1945. HMAS LONSDALE Base war organisation.

Includes HMAS CERBERUS III, February-July 1940.

RCDIG1074122

AWM 78 [436/1]

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL
ACCESS STATUS
OPEN

Declassification Authority—Defence Records
This record has been reviewed and has been declassified by the Department of Defence (Navy) with effect from: 17 DEC 90
Authority Dig (N) Admin 18-13.
Reviewer: LCDR R. L. Smith (RANEM)
Signature: R Smith Date: 14 MAR 91

Archives Branch
NAVAL HISTORICAL RECORDS

LONSDALE WAR DIARY

4/12

2026/7/460 58B

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY.

MINUTE PAPER.

6 3048....

SUBJECT: H.M.A.S. "LONSDALE". WAR DIARY. 3 MONTHS TO 31/10/45

D.R.&D. 20/11

D.T.C. 29/11 No remarks

M. 29/11

S.O. (W.Bks.)

S.S.T.O. R.C.W. 30/11

N.A. & N.M.

C.N.D. 5.7/12

D/WRANS 7/12

D.N.P.M.

D.N.S. 11 DEC 1945

D. of V. 18 DEC 1945

D.N.A.

D.N.P.E. 11. DEC. 1945 DEPT. OF NAVY

D.N.R.M. 7. JAN 1946 DEPT. OF NAVY

S/H.

D.N.I.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

MINUTE PAPER

2026/7/460

C.441/45. 19/11

SUBJECT: Hmas "LONSDALE" — WAR DIARY. 3 MONTHS TO 31/10/45

D of P 20/11

D T S R 21/11

DO/D 22/11

D C N S 22/11

1st M 23/11

NS (further marking)

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

TELEPHONE No. St.6301

ACK. BY. A.M. 13301
16 NOV 1945
UNIT.

DEPT. OF NAVY
2026-7-460
SECRET

Commonwealth of Australia

Department of The Navy

Orig

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE
No. C.2201/1

NAVAL STAFF OFFICE
Port Melbourne, S.C.7.
13th November, 1945.

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

WAR DIARY H.M.A.S. "LONSDALE" BASE WAR ORGANISATION VICTORIA FOR THREE MONTHS ENDED 31st OCTOBER, 1945.

Submitted for the information of the Naval Board in accordance with Navy Office Letter 035037 of 8th November, 1940, is the attached summary of events for H.M.A.S. "Lonsdale", Local Defence Vessels and Establishments under my command for the 3 months ended 31st October, 1945.

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

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

OPERATIONS.

M.A.S. "DOOMBA".

Arrived Melbourne from Westernport 6th August, carried out training exercises and sailed for Westernport 10th August.

Arrived Melbourne from Westernport 15th August, carried out training exercises and sailed for Sydney 20th August. Arrived Melbourne from Sydney 27th August, carried out training exercises and sailed for Westernport 7th September.

Arrived Melbourne from Westernport 17th September, carried out training exercises and sailed for Westernport 24th September.

Arrived Melbourne from Westernport 16th October.

Docked 23rd October and sailed for Westernport 1st November.

H.M.A.S. "BERYL II".

Undocked 13th August. Dumped explosives at sea 3rd, 5th, 6th, 7th, 10th and 12th September. Carried out sweeping trials 18th September. Dumped explosives 22nd, 25th, 27th September 1st and 4th October.

Refitted for reversion to trade and sailed for Sydney with T.B.8 in tow 1st November.

H.M.A.S. "YANDRA".

Arrived Melbourne from Sydney 19th October and sailed for Sydney 23rd October.

H.M.A.S. "LISMORE".

Completed repairs and sailed for Fremantle 4th August.

H.M.A.S. "FAILIE".

Arrived Melbourne from Sydney 7th October. Completed repairs and sailed for Adelaide 12th October.

H.M.A.S. "MARY CAM".

Arrived Melbourne from Fremantle 8th October. Sailed for Sydney 11th October.

H.M.A.S. "OLIVE CAM".

Arrived Melbourne from Fremantle 8th October. Sailed for Sydney with T.B.9 in tow 13th October.

H.M.A.S. "BINGERA".

Completed refit and trials and sailed for Sydney 6th October.

H.M.A.S. "URALBA".

Arrived Melbourne from Sydney 3rd September. Discharged explosives, carried out repairs and fumigation. Loaded Mines at Swan Island for drowning 30th September, returning to Melbourne 6th October after taking part in search for wrecked fishing vessel. Loaded Mines at Swan Island 11th October. Delayed by weather and returned to Melbourne 19th October. Loaded mines 21st October returning to Melbourne 24th October. Dumped explosives 26th October, returning 27th October. Loaded warheads Swan Island 31st October. Sailed for Adelaide 3rd November.

H.M.A.S. "TOWNSVILLE".

Completed refit and sailed for Sydney 21st August.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

H.M.A.S. "COWRA".

Completed refit and sailed for Sydney 28th September.

H.M.A.S. "QUIBERON".

Arrived Melbourne from Sydney 20th October and commenced refit.

H.M.A.S. "NAPIER."

Arrived Melbourne from Sydney 29th September and commenced refit.
Recommissioned as H.M. Ship 25th October.

H.M.A.S. "COOMBAR".

Arrived Melbourne from Sydney 14th October and commenced refit prior to reversion to trade. Paid off 26th October.

H.M.S. "QUALITY".

Arrived Melbourne from Sydney 14th October.
Recommissioned as H.M.A. Ship 25th October. Sailed for Sydney 31st October.

H.M.S. "URCHIN".

Arrived Melbourne from Sydney 28th August and commenced refit.
Completed refit and trials and sailed for Devonport 25th October.

H.M.S. "URSA".

Completed refit and trials and sailed for Sydney 7th August.

H.M.S. "APOLLO".

Completed refit and trials and sailed for Sydney 23rd August.

H.M.S. "MANXMAN".

Completed refit and trials and sailed for Sydney 31st August.

H.M.S. "ARIADNE".

Arrived Melbourne from Sydney 14th August. Discharged Mines and sailed for Sydney 15th August.

H.M.S. "UNDINE".

Arrived Melbourne from Sydney 28th August. Completed refit and trials and sailed for Sydney 5th October.

H.M.S. "TURPIN".

Arrived Geelong from Westernport 14th September. Arrived Melbourne 17th September and sailed for Fremantle 24th September.

H.M.S. "TOTEM".

Arrived Geelong from Westernport 14th September. Arrived Melbourne 17th September and sailed for Fremantle 24th September.

H.M.S. "TAPIR".

Arrived Geelong from Westernport 14th September. Arrived Melbourne 17th September and sailed for Fremantle 24th September.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

H.M.S. "VOX".

Arrived Melbourne from Burnie 11th October and sailed for Adelaide via Kingston 16th October.

H.M.S. "KING GEORGE V".

Arrived Melbourne from Sydney 29th October.

U.S.S. "BIRMINGHAM".

Arrived Melbourne from Sydney 25th October.

2. ENGINEERING.

Work carried out on ships for the three months ending 31st October, 1945, for information and consideration.

1. Ships fitted with armament totalled - 1.

2. Ships from which armament has been removed totalled - 30.

3. Ships on which stiffening, Locker or P/V repairs were carried out totalled - 8.

4. Testing of P/V's and replacement of running gear, testing of F.A.M. & U.P. Pillar Box circuits by D.E.M.S. Staff totalled - 15.

5. Refits of H.M.A. Ships totalled - 5.

6. Maintenance of H.M.A. Ships attached to this Port and visiting warships totalled - 12.

7. 1 in No. Stores Carrier refitting and Conversion.

8. Motor Boat Refits and maintenance have not been shown in above figures.

3. DEFENSIVE EQUIPMENT OF MERCHANT SHIPS.

During the three months ending 31st October, 1945, all D.E.M. Ships which entered the Port of Melbourne were boarded and inspected by D.E.M.S. Staff.

The Vessels comprised:

British Register		86
Commonwealth	"	155
U.S.A.	"	33
Norwegian	"	24
Greek	"	10
Dutch	"	11
Danish	"	1
Yugo-slav	"	1
Panamanian	"	4
		325 Ships

Armament and Equipment was removed from 12 ships in accordance with Naval Board's letter 674/201/3261 (92931) and A.F.O's 962/45 and 4179/45.

Electrical Defects.

Telephones, F.A.M.'s, Pillar Box circuits in D.E.M.S. Repairs and tests carried out.	30
D.C. Pistols ex H.M.A. Ships and H.M. Ships, Tested and overhauled.	296

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

3. DEFENSIVE EQUIPMENT OF MERCHANT SHIPS (Cont'd.)

Changes in Personnel. D.E.M. Ships 169

4. DEGAUSSING.

During the months of August, September and October, 1945, the D/G equipment of 63 Merchant and 5 War ships were tested electrically and the equipment of 10 Merchant and 3 War ships were taken in hand for essential repairs.

Essential repairs to H.M.S. "NAPIER" were carried out by H.M.A. Dockyard, Williamstown.

Compass adjustments were made for D/G effects on 7 H.M. and H.M.A. Ships and 13 Merchant Ships.

LL SA Work.

Tests and overhaul of LL Sweep Equipment and the installation of S.A. Gear, Type A, Mark 4 were carried out on H.M.A.S. "COWRA".

5. GUNNERY DEPARTMENT.

Gunnery Instructional Centre.

During the period under review 121 personnel attended the Gunnery Instructional Centre for training and refresher courses. This number was composed of 11 D.E.M.S. ratings, 67 R.A.N. personnel and 43 Allied Service personnel. Guns crews of H.M. and H.M.A. Ships refitted at Melbourne have attended the Gunnery Instructional Centre for similar instruction and drill on 4" Q.F. MK.XIX and 40 m.m. Bofors guns. Successful firings on parachute targets have been carried out on completion of courses at Fort Gellibrand range with Bofors, Oerlikons and .303 Weapons.

On 17th October the Naval A.A. Range at Gellibrand closed down. The Gunnery Instructional Centre closed down, all stores being finally returned to Naval Store Depot on the 18th October.

Ordnance Base Staff.

The Ordnance Base Staff have been fully employed carrying out maintenance routines on the armament of D.E.M. Ships, also overhauling and fully refitting armament on H.M.A. Ships carrying out refits at Melbourne. A total of 49 merchant ships had maintenance and repairs carried out, including 36 where 6 monthly routines were completed during the period under review. Twenty ships have been disarmed during this period, four being H.M.A. Ships and sixteen D.E.M. Ships.

Optical Section.

The Optical Staff have been fully employed carrying out maintenance repairs for H.M., H.M.A. and D.E.M. Ships visiting the port. During the period under review 31 gun-sughting telescopes and binoculars, 34 hand-held binoculars, 4 telescopes (Sig) 4 Rangefinders and various other items have been taken in hand. The other work and imprevements etc:- Vickers Vacuum Plant assembled and tested. Experiements carried out with bloomed and metallized glass surfaces. Modification made to rubber bung and metal adaptor on bell jar.

H.M.A. Ships Refitting.

During the period under review the following ships have been taken in hand for refitting and re-arming.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

5. GUNNERY DEPARTMENT (Contd)

H.M.A. Ships Refitting (Contd)

H.M.S. URSA".	H.M.A.S. TOWNSVILLE
H.M.S. UNDINE.	H.M.A.S. COWRA
H.M.S. URCHIN	H.M.A.S. NAPIER
H.M.S. MANXMAN	H.M.A.S. QUIBERON

6. ANTI-SUBMARINE.

The following work was carried out by the Base A/S Staff for the quarter ending 31st October, 1945:-

A. A/S and E/S installations in seven ships were refitted.
Two ships at present undergoing refit.
L.I.S.A. installations in three ships were refitted.

B. Inspection, repair and maintenance of A/S and E/S installations were carried out in seven other ships.

C. A/S and L.I.S.A. installations removed from one ship.

7. RADAR.

For the quarter ending 31st October, 1945, the following ships had either major modifications carried out on their radar or were completely fitted:-

H.M.S. "URSA"
H.M.A.S."TOWNSVILLE"
H.M.A.S. "COWRA"
H.M.S. "MANXMAN"
H.M.S. "APOLLO"
H.M.A.S. "LISMORE"
H.M.S. "URCHIN"
H.M.S. "UNDINE"
H.M.A.S. "QUIBERON"

The following ships were inspected and defects made good:-

D.E.M.S.	H.M.A.S.
"UMTATA"	"DOOMBA"
"EMPIRE HAIG"	"BINGERA"
"PORT FAIRY"	"BUNBURY"
"EMPIRE ABERCORN"	"NAPIER"
"STRATHAIRD"	"NAPIER"
"STRATHMORE"	
"TAMOROA"	
"RIMUTAKA"	
"EMPIRE MARS"	
"STRATHEDON"	

8. REHABILITATION.

During the quarter a total of 569 officers and ratings were demobilised and discharged.

9. W.R.A.N.S.

One New Entry Course for 10 W.R.A.N.S. was conducted during the quarter. 62 W.R.A.N.S. were discharged to shore.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

10. NAVAL RESERVE DEPOT, WILLIAMSTOWN.

Personnel.

During the quarter 890 ratings were victualled in and 789 were checked out.

58 patients were admitted to the sick quarters and 601 were placed on the attending list.

Fuelling.

A total of 20 vessels were fuelled during the quarter and fuel was received from 5 ships. 10855 tons of oil fuel were issued and 34126 tons were received. Fuel remaining on 31st October was 31193 tons, representing 95% of total capacity.

Boats held for Custody, etc.

The following boats were taken over during the quarter:-

T.B.6 T.B.8 T.B.9 A.W.B. 405 A.W.B. 404	From Contractor
50 Ton Lock-up Lighter No. R.N.S.L.1001 1002 508	From Contractor
55' Cargo Lighter R.N.S.L.1097 1098	

Ketch "Phyllis" ex Army
s.s. "Plover" (A.T.433) ex Army
100' Vessel "Tarneit" " "

Boatshed and Workshop.

Refit and repair work has been carried out as necessary on motor boats in use and in reserve.

General.

The Minesweeping Stores on charge in Naval Store Ledgers were transferred to charge of Naval Store Depot, Port Melbourne.

Gunnery Firing range has been closed down.

11. NAVAL RECRUITING OFFICE.

During the quarter 1241 applications were received. A total of 6 Officers, 321 ratings and 5 W.R.A.N.S. were entered.

12. WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY.

During the three months ending 31st October, 1945, two fast mine layers, four destroyers and four A.M.S. were fitted with additional W/T equipment and received assistance from Base Staff in servicing gear already on board.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

13. NAVAL CONTROL SERVICE.

Arrivals

Overseas.	Inter-State.
183	234

Departures.

Overseas.	Inter-State.
180	254

14. SEA TRANSPORT OFFICE.

During the quarter 1,278 persons were embarked in 18 vessels and 4,643 disembarked from 25 vessels. 49,814 tons of cargo were loaded into 87 vessels and 39,496 tons discharged from 118 ships.

15. NAVAL RAILWAY TRANSPORT OFFICE.

19,390 officers and ratings passed through the hands of the Railway Transport Office during the quarter.

8548 blankets were received and 8270 issued.

2950 sets of mess gear were received and

3030 sets of mess gear issued.

16. ELECTRICAL.

296 D/C Pistols received and overhauled during the quarter.

Overhaul and removal of Electrical Circuits, Phones, etc., was undertaken in 5 H.M. and H.M.A. and 25 Merchant Ships.

17. H.M.A.S. "LONSDALE".

(a) Average daily number borne in H.M.A.S. "Lonsdale" and tenders was 1884.

(b) Total amount paid per Cash Account during quarter, £99,422.

(c) Clothing sold on repayment £5652.

(d) Gratuitous issue of clothing £378.

(e) Patients treated in Sick Bay 3,400

(f) Patients treated by Dental Officer 2346.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

18. CIVIL SECRETARY'S BRANCH

Expenditure	£1,253,911	
Receipts	16,709	
Expense Accounts (Naval Stores drawn & recoverable)		£14,683
No. of Accounts paid	4,031	
No. of Requisitions funded	1,214	
Numbers borne	259	
Salary Payments	20,030	

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY.

MINUTE PAPER.

2026/7/460

3643....

SECRET

SUBJECT: HMAS "LONSDALE" – WAR DIARY – 3 MONTHS ENDED 31/7/45

DofP R/c 23/8.

DTSR R 6/9

DCNS R 4/9.

DNC 5/9

DO 6/9

SO(NCS) R 7/9

T 10/9

S.O.(W B & S)

DE(N) 12/9

DNM(S) W 11/9

DNI 24/9

DNI(NHRO) 25/9 C

H/G

Mrs Glover
Asst Supt



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL
RCDIG1074122

TELEPHONE No.

Commonwealth of Australia

Department of The Navy.

DEPT. OF NAVY
Sy/6301
2026-7-460.
SECRET

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE

No. C.2201/1

SECRET

ACK. BY. A.S. NAVY
22 AUG 1945
INIT.

SECRET

NAVAL STAFF OFFICE
Port Melbourne, S.C.7.
20th August, 1945.

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

WAR DIARY H.M.A.S. "LONSDALE" BASE WAR ORGANISATION VICTORIA
FOR THREE MONTHS ENDED 31st JULY, 1945.

Submitted for the information of the Naval Board in accordance with Navy Office Letter 035037 of 8th November, 1940 is the attached summary of events for H.M.A.S. "Lonsdale", Local Defence Vessels and Establishments under my command for the 3 months ended 31st July, 1945.

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

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

OPERATIONS.

H.M.A.S."KOROWA".

During May vessel was sweeping until 3rd. Remained at Melbourne from 3rd to 12th, during which period dummy Depth Charge recovery for H.M.A.S."Lithgow" and Radar Calibrations for H.M.A.S. "Gympie" were carried out.

Sweeping was conducted between 12th and 18th.

Escorted H.M.Tugs "Lariat" and "Integrity" with A.F.D. 17 in tow to Sydney between 19th and 26th, leaving Sydney for Melbourne 29th.

Arrived Melbourne 1st June and underwent boiler cleaning until 7th when vessel sailed for sweeping, returning to Melbourne 15th. Remained at Melbo rne until 25th when sweeping was again undertaken until 29th. Radar Calibrations were then carried out with H.M.A.S. "Cessnock".

Sailed for sweeping 3rd July returning to Melbourne 9th.
Carried out Radar Calibrations with H.M.S. "Whelp" 11th.
Preparations were then commended for return of vessel to owners.

H.M.A.S. "GERALDTON".

Arrived Melbourne from Fremantle 8th June for engine repairs and sailed for Sydney 10th July.

H.M.A.S."TOWNSVILLE".

Arrived Melbourne from Sydney 23rd June and commended refit.

H.M.A.S. "GYMPIE".

Completed refit and sailed for Fremantle 10th May.

H.M.A.S."CESSNOCK".

Completed refit and sailed for Sydney 2nd July.

H.M.A.S. "LITHGOW".

Completed refit and sailed for Sydney 15th May.

H.M.A.S. "GASCOYNE".

Completed refit and sailed for Sydney 2nd June.

H.M.A.S. "PING WO".

Completed refit and sailed for Sydney 19th July.

H.M.A.S."TAMBAR".

Arrived Melbourne from Sydney 1st July. Returned to owners 11th July.

H.M.A.S. "DIAMOND SNAKE".

Commissioned 23rd July. Fitted out, loaded and completed trials and sailed for Sydney 27th July.

H.M.A.S. "ANACONDA":

Arrived Melbourne from Hobart 30th May. Fitted with Radar and sailed for Sydney 13th June.

H.M.A.S."BERYL 11".

Arrived Melbourne from Sydney 22nd June and commenced refit.

H.M.A.S."BINGERA".

Arrived Melbourne from Sydney 12th June, and commenced refit.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

H.M.A.S. "DOOMBA".

Arrived Melbourne from Westernport 20th May for exercises and sailed 28th.

Arrived Melbourne from Westernport 1st June for exercises and sailed 4th.

Arrived Melbourne from Westernport 10th June for exercises and sailed for Westernport 2nd July.

Returned to Melbourne 4th July and departed for Westernport. 7th July. Arrived Melbourne 15th July. Carried out exercises and sailed for Hobart 28th July.

H.M.A.S. "YANDRA".

Arrived Melbourne from Sydney 23rd June. Sailed 26th June on training cruise and sailed for Sydney.2nd July. Arrived Melbourne from Sydney 26th July and sailed for Sydney 30th July.

H.M.A.S. "URALBA".

Arrived Melbourne from Sydney 2nd July and discharged. Loaded for Townsville and sailed via Sydney 8th July.

H.M.A.S. "COWRA".

Arrived Melbourne from Sydney 29th July and commended refit.

M.S.L. 706.

Taken over from builders 14th May. Sailed for Sydney 17th May.

M.S.L. 707.

Taken over from builders 4th June and sailed for Sydney 6th June.

M.S.L. 708.

Taken over from builders 2nd July and sailed for Sydney 5th July.

H.M.S. "TEAZER".

Arrived Melbourne from Fremantle 12th May and commenced refit. Sailed for Sydney 23rd May.

H.M.S. "GLENEARN".

Arrived Melbourne from Sydney 4th July. Completed repairs and sailed for Sydney 29th July.

H.M.S. "MANXMAN".

Arrived Geelong from Fremantle 30th July. Arrived Melbourne 1st August and commenced refit.

H.M.S. "APOLLO".

Arrived Geelong from Fremantle 30th July. Arrived Melbourne 1st August and commenced refit.

H.M.S. "WHELP".

Arrived Melbourne from Sydney 21st May and commenced refit. Completed refit and sailed for Sydney 15th July.

H.M.S. "URSA".

Arrived Melbourne from Sydney 18th June and commenced refit.

H.M.H.S."GERUSALEMME".

Arrived Melbourne from Albany for repairs 30th May and sailed for Sydney 11th July.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

H.M.A.S. "LISMORE".

Arrived Melbourne 31st July for repairs and sailed for Fremantle 4th August.

H.N.M. SUBMARINE O-21.

Arrived Melbourne from Wellington 2nd May for repairs and sailed for Fremantle 13th May.

H.N.M.S. "ABRAHAM CRIJNSSEN".

Sailed for Sydney towing lighter 21st May.

U.S.N.T. "GENERAL HASE".

Arrived Melbourne from San Pedro 27th May and sailed for Fremantle 29th May.

F.F.S. "CAP DES PALMES."

Arrived Melbourne from Sydney for engine repairs 2nd June. Completed repairs and sailed for Fremantle 13th June.

2. ENGINEERING.

Work carried out in ships during the quarter was as follows.

A. Ships fitted with LA, HA/LA, Bofors, U.P.Pillar Box, Oerlikon Stiffenings, F.A.N.'s. or removal of A.A. Armament totalled - 7.

B. Ships on which repairs, repositioning armament, making lockers and repair to P/V equipment etc. totalled - 14.

C. 1 in No. H.M.A.Mobile Works Ship refitting and Conversion.

D. 1 in No. H.M.A.Stores Carrier refitting and conversion.

E. Testing of P/V's and replacements of running gear, testing of F.A.M. and U.P.Pillar Box circuits etc., by D.E.M.S. Staff totalled - 78.

F. Maintenance of H.M.A.Ships attached to this Port and visiting Warships totalled - 10.

G. Refits of H.M.A.Ships totalled - 5.

H. Conversion of two in No. Lighters to Ammunition Lighters.

I. Motor Boat refits and maintenance have not been shown in above figures.

3. DEFENSIVE EQUIPMENT OF MERCHANT SHIPS.

During the three months ending 31st July, 1945, all D.E.M. Ships which entered the Port of Melbourne were boarded and inspected by D.E.M.S. Staff.

The Vessels comprised:

British Register		81.
Commonwealth	"	151.
U.S.A.	"	73.
Norwegian	"	20
Greek	"	8.
Dutch	"	6.
Danish	"	1.
Yugo-Slav	"	2.
Panama	"	3.
		345.

3. DEFENSIVE EQUIPMENT OF MERCHANT SHIPS. (Cont'd).

A/A. Equipment was removed from 7 ships.

Paravanes.

Paravanes completely overhauled and repaired	38.
Vessels refitted, wires etc.	37.

Electrical Defects.

Telephones, F.A.M.'s, Pillar Box circuits in D.E.M.S. Repairs and tests carried out.	89.
D.C. Pistols ex H.M.A. Ships and H.M.Ships - Tested and overhauled.	526.

Changes in Personnel.

D.E.M.Ships	140.

4. DEGAUSSING.

During the months of May, June, and July, 1945, the degaussing equipment of 127 Merchant and 6 War Ships were tested electrically, and the equipment of 10 Merchant and 6 Warships were taken in hand for essential repairs.

Essential repairs to H.M.S. "GLENEARN" and H.M.S. "URSA" were carried out by H.M.A. Dockyard, Williamstown.

Summary of LL. SA. Work Carried out During May, June, July, 1945.

L.L. Installation completed H.M.A.S."GYMPIE".
S.A. Type A, Mark IV installed " "

Unserviceable L.L. Batteries removed H.M.A.S. "CESSNOCK".
S.A. Type A, Mark IV installed. " "

5. GUNNERY DEPARTMENT.

Gunnery Instructional Centre. During the period under review 367 personnel attended the Gunnery Instructional Centre for training. and refresher courses. This number was composed of 154 D.E.M.S. ratings, 4 Merchant Navy personnel, 164 Naval personnel and 45 Allied Service personnel. Gun crews of H.M. and H.M.A. Ships refitting at Melbourne have attended the Gunnery Instructional Centre for similar instruction and drill on 4" Q.F. MK XIX and 40 m.m. Bofors guns. Successful firings on parachute targets have been carried out on completion of courses at Fort Gellibrand range with Bofors, Oerlikons and .303 guns.

(ii) Ordnance Base Staff. The Ordnance Staff have been fully employed carrying out maintenance routines on the armament of D.E.M. Ships, also overhauling and fully refitting armament on H.M. and H.M.A. Ships carrying out refits at Melbourne. A total of 96 merchant ships had maintenance and repairs carried out, including 57 where 6 monthly rou routines were completed during the period under review.

(iii) Optical Section. The Optical Staff have been fully employed carrying out maintenance repairs for H.M., H.M.A. and D.E.M.Ships visiting this port. During the period under review 29 pairs of binoculars, 42 gun-sighting telescopes, 9 gun-sighting binoculars and 17 telescopes and various other items have been taken in hand.

(iv) H.M.A.Ships Refitting. During the period under review the following ships have been taken in hand for refitting and re-arming.

H.M.A.S. LITHGOW
H.M.A.S. GYMPIE
H.M.A.S. CESSNOCK
H.M.A.S. GASCOYNE
H.M.A.S. PING-WO
H.M.A.S. DIAMOND SNAKE.
H.M.S. TEAZER
H.M.S. WHELP.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

6. ANTI-SUBMARINE.

The following work was carried out by the Base A/S. Staff for the quarter ending 31st July, 1945:-

A. A/S. and E/S. installations in eleven ships, three of which were converted to later types, were refitted.

L.I.S.A. installations in four ships were refitted.

B. Inspection, Repair and Maintenance of A/S., E/S. and L.I.S.A. installations were carried out in twelve other ships.

7. RADAR.

The activities of the Port Radar Staff from 1st May, 1945 to 31st July, 1945, were as follows :-

A. SHIPS FITTING COMPLETED.

	Radar Sets Fitted.
H.M.A.S."GASCOYNE"	A276
H.M.A.S."GYMPIE"	253
H.M.A.S."CESSNOCK"	A272
	A286Q
HLM.A.S."LITHGOW"	253
H.M.A.S."PING WO"	253
H.M.A.S."ANACONDA"	ABK
H.M.A.S."DIAMOND SNAKE"	ABK

B. Ships being fitted 31.7.45.

H.M.A.S."TOWNSVILLE"	A276, 253P
H.M.A.S."COWRA"	A276

C. During the quarter, refits were carried out on H.M.A.ships "GYMPIE", "GASCOYNE", "LITHGOW", "CESSNOCK". H.M.Ships "TEAZER", "WHELP", "GLENEARN", and "URSA", necessitating much work by Base Staff. Inspections were also carried out by Base Staff, and repairs made where necessary on all Warships and Merchant Ships fitted with Radar.

D. A new Royal Naval Workshop for Base Radio Repair is being set up, and one R.N. Officer has joined for R.N. Radio Repair.

E. Ships under refit are no longer visited at Adelaide.

8. REHABILITATION.

During the quarter a total of 225 Officers and ratings were demobilised and discharged.

9. ~~GENERAL.~~ W.R.A.N.S.

During the quarter 112 New Entries underwent training in H.M.A.S. "Lonsdale".

10. NAVAL RESERVE DEPOT, WILLIAMSTOWN.

Personnel. During the quarter 739 ratings were victualled in and 774 were checked out.

76 patients were admitted to the sick quarters and 458 were placed on the attending list.

Fuelling. A total of 18 vessels were fuelled during the quarter and fuel was received from 6 ships. 13682 tons of fuel were issued and 4482 tons were received. Fuel remaining on July 31st was 7981 tons, representing 24% of total capacity. Repairs to the swing arm in No.2 tank are nearing completion.

A relief valve was installed in the Newport oil line at the Williamstown installation for the prevention of unduly high pressures in flexible pipe lines. The work was carried out by the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works as contractors to the Department of the Interior.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

10. NAVAL RESERVE DEPOT, WILLIAMSTOWN. (Cont'd).

Boats held for custody etc. 5 boats were taken over by their new owners.

Boatshed and Workshop. Refit and repair work has been carried out as necessary on motor boats in use and in reserve. Workshop facilities have been afforded H.M. and H.M.A. ships undergoing refit.

General. The sound proof cabinet in the south west corner of the Drill Hall was fitted out to accommodate a canteen which commenced operating on 1st June. The canteen provides a useful service for the ship's company and has obviated difficulties which arose in connection with the provision of tobacco through private tobacconists.

Mobile Anti-Submarine Unit, No. 42, (Lieutenant D.A.Graham, R.N.V.R., Officer-in-Charge) has been accommodated on the parade ground of this Depot. This unit provides complete facilities for the training of Officers and A/S. personnel of R.N. ships visiting this port.

11. NAVAL RECRUITING OFFICE.

During the quarter 2017 applications were received. A total of 8 Officers, 295 Ratings and 91 W.R.A.N.S. was entered. Manpower replacements 74 ratings and one W.R.A.N.S.

12. AIR OPERATIONS, SOUTHERN AREA.

During the quarter the following Radar Tests and Sleeve Target practices and exercises were arranged by Air Operations Room, Southern Area.

(i) Radar Tests.

H.M.A.S.	"Goulburn"	3.4.45.
"	"Gympie"	9.4.45
"	"Lithgow"	7.4.45.
"	"Cessnock"	29.6.45.
H.M.S.	"Whelp"	11.7.45

(ii) Sleeve Target Practices.

H.M.S. "Whelp" 11.7.45.

13. WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY.

14 vessels were taken in hand for servicing, repairs and modifications. 5 of these ships were at Adelaide.

14. NAVAL CONTROL SERVICE.

Arrivals 214 from Overseas.
236 from Interstate.

Departures 212 for Overseas.
263 for Interstate.

15. SEA TRANSPORT OFFICE.

During the quarter 1,473 persons were embarked in 35 vessels and 1,049 disembarked from 27 vessels. 43,089 tons of Service cargo were discharged from 134 vessels and 89,160 tons loaded into 127 vessels.

16. NAVAL RAILWAY TRANSPORT OFFICE.

During the quarter 18,151 officers and ratings passed through the Railway Transport Office. The following blankets and mess were issued and received:-

6000 blankets and 2400 sets of mess gear were issued and
6300 blankets and 2300 sets of mess gear were received.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

17. H.M.A.S."LONSDALE".

(a) Average daily number borne in H.M.A.S."Lonsdale" and tenders was 1915.

(b) Amount paid to personnel of H.M.A.S."Lonsdale" and tenders during quarter was £75,246.

(c) Clothing sold on repayment £5,752.

(d) Gratuitous issues of clothing £2,674.

(e) Patients treated in Sick Bay 1,374.

(f) Patients treated by Dental Officer 1,846.

18. CIVIL SECRETARY'S BRANCH.

Expenditure	£973,869.
Receipts.	19,570
Expense Accounts (Naval Stores drawn and recoverable)	£27,583.
Accounts Paid	3,492.
Requisitions funded	2,026.
Numbers Borne	268.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY.

MINUTE PAPER.

2026/7/460

3048

SECRET

SUBJECT: Allied "LONSDALE" - WAR DIARY FOR 3 MONTHS ENDED 30/4/45

RECEIVED
13 JUN 1945
I.O.T.M.

D of P. 24/5

D P 24/5.

D T S R

D O/D 29/5

D C & S 30/5

D T D 30/5

D A C Gen. S. 1/6

D R & T 4/6

D E (N) 7/6/45

D T M 14/6

D. R. 26/6

27/6

D N I (NHRO)

7/6

H.S. 8/7.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

Original

DEPT. OF NAVY
2026.7.460
SECRET

TELEPHONE No.

St 6301

Commonwealth of Australia

Department of The Navy.

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE

No. C.2201/1

SECRET

NAVAL STAFF OFFICE
Port Melbourne,
18th May, 1945.

The Secretary, Naval Board,
Navy Office, MELBOURNE.

WAR DIARY : H.M.A.S. "LONSDALE". BASE WAR ORGANISATION, VICTORIA, FOR THREE MONTHS ENDED 30TH APRIL, 1945.

Submitted for the information of the Naval Board in accordance with Navy Office letter 035037 of 8th November, 1940 is the attached summary of events for H.M.A.S. "Lonsdale", Local Defence Vessels and Establishments under my command for the period three months ended 30th April, 1945.

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

D of P.

DCNS

DNI.

N5.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

OPERATIONS.

H.M.A.S. "DOOMBA".

Arrived Melbourne from Sydney 4th February and sailed for Westernport 14th February. Arrived Melbourne from Westernport 21st February and sailed for Westernport 23rd. Arrived Melbourne from Westernport 26th February and sailed for Sydney escorting H.M.S. "Voracious" 27th February. Arrived Melbourne from Sydney 7th March and sailed for Westernport 19th March. Arrived Melbourne from Westernport 5th April and sailed for exercises off Wilson's Promontory 16th April, returning to Melbourne 19th April. Sailed for Westernport 27th April.

H.M.A.S. "GASCOYNE".

Arrived Melbourne from Sydney 17th April and commenced refit.

H.M.A.S. "PING WO".

Arrived Melbourne from Sydney 16th February and commenced refit.

H.M.A.S. "KOROWA".

During February vessel towed targets on 1st. Carried out single Oropesa sweep in Cape Otway and Wilson's Promontory area between 7th and 16th. Acted as transmitting ship for R.D.F. Calibrations 17th, and as Radar target ship on 20th. Sailed 21st to act as escort for H.M.S. "Voracious" returning on 23rd. Towed targets on 28th.

During March vessel sailed 2nd to act as escort for H.M.S. "Vox", returning on 3rd. Boiler cleaning and dry docking was carried out between 4th and 7th. Targets were towed on 8th. Inspection was carried out by Naval Officer-in-Charge, Port Melbourne on 14th. Sailed 15th for single Oropesa sweep off Cape Otway and Wilson's Promontory returning on 27th. Acted as Radar Target ship on 28th.

During April sailed 3rd to act as escort for H.M.S. "Virtue" returning on 5th when acted as Radar Target Ship. Carried out single Oropesa sweep off Wilson's Promontory between 9th and 19th. Towed target on 26th. Sweeped and patrolled in Cape Otway and Wilson's Promontory area 27th to 29th.

H.M.A.S. "GOULBURN".

Arrived Melbourne from Sydney 6th February and commenced refit. Completed refit and trials and sailed for Manus with 60 foot lighter in tow 7th April. Sheltered Philip Island 10th and resumed passage 11th.

H.M.A.S. "JUNEE".

Arrived Melbourne from Sydney 8th February and commenced refit. Completed refit and trials and sailed for Sydney 8th April.

H.M.A.S. "NIZAM".

Completed refit and trials and sailed for Fremantle 9th February.

H.M.A.S. "CAIRNS."

Arrived Melbourne from Fremantle 20th February and commenced gunnery modifications. Completed refit and trials and sailed for Sydney 9th March.

H.M.A.S. "CESSNOCK".

Arrived Melbourne from Fremantle 20th February and commenced gunnery modifications. Completed refit and trials and sailed for Sydney 9th March.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

H.M.A.S. "GERALDTON".

Arrived Melbourne from Fremantle 20th February and commenced gunnery modifications. Completed refit and trials and sailed for Adelaide 15th March.

H.M.A.S. "PIRIE".

Arrived Melbourne from Fremantle 6th February. Fuelled and sailed for Sydney 7th February.

H.M.A.S. "LAUNCESTON".

Arrived Melbourne from Fremantle 6th February. Fuelled and sailed for Sydney 7th February.

H.M.A.S. "BARCOO".

Arrived Melbourne from Sydney 2nd February and commenced refit. Completed refit and trials and sailed for Sydney 9th March.

H.M.A.S. "LITHGOW".

Arrived Melbourne from Sydney 6th April and commenced refit.

H.M.A.S. "YANDRA".

Arrived Melbourne from Sydney 27th February and sailed for Sydney after fuelling 2nd March.
Arrived Melbourne from Sydney 8th April. Fuelled and sailed for Sydney 12th April escorting H.M. Submarine "Virtue".

H.M.A.S. "GAWLER".

Arrived Melbourne from Adelaide 14th April. Fuelled and sailed for Sydney with 60 foot lighter in tow 16th April.

H.M.A.S. "TOOWOOMBA".

Arrived Melbourne from Fremantle 23rd March. Fuelled and sailed for Sydney towing a 100 foot lighter 25th March.

H.M.A.S. "NAPIER".

Arrived Melbourne 8th March. Fuelled and sailed for Sydney 9th March. Returned to Melbourne 10th March and commenced repairs. Completed refit and trials and sailed for Sydney 29th March.

H.M.A.S. "GLENELG".

Completed refit and trials and sailed for Sydney 21st February.

H.M.A.S."KATOOMBA".

Arrived Melbourne from Townsville 28th March. Fuelled and sailed for Fremantle 29th March.

H.D.M.L. 1328.

Arrived Melbourne from Adelaide 6th February. Completed installation of A/S and sailed for Sydney 22nd February.

H.M.A.S. "SEA SNAKE".

Commissioned 31st March. Fitted out, stored and completed trials and sailed for Sydney 11th April.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

H.M.N.S. "ABRAHAM CRIJNSSEN".

Vessel was based at Melbourne during quarter.

H.M.N.S. "MERAK".

Vessel was stationed at Melbourne during quarter.

H.M.N.S. "TROMP".

Arrived Melbourne from Sydney 25th February. Carried out exercises in Port Philip and sailed for Fremantle 28th February.

H.M.S. "ULSTER".

Arrived Melbourne 11th February for docking and repairs. Completed trials and exercises and sailed for Sydney 20th February.

H.M. Submarine "VIRTUE".

Arrived Melbourne from Fremantle 5th April. Fuelled and sailed for Sydney escorted by H.M.A.S. "Yandra" 13th April.

H.M. Submarine "VORACIOUS".

Arrived Melbourne from Fremantle 23rd February. Fuelled and sailed for Sydney escorted by H.M.A.S. "Doomba" 27th February.

H.M. Submarine "VOX".

Arrived Melbourne from Fremantle 3rd March. Fuelled and sailed for Sydney escorted by H.M.A.S. "Barcoo" 9th March.

H.M.R.T. "WEAZEL".

Arrived Melbourne from Fremantle 18th February. Fuelled, carried out repairs and sailed for Sydney 25th February.

U.S.S. "GENERAL LEROY ELTINGE".

Arrived Melbourne from San Pedro 12th April and sailed for Calcutta 13th April.

U.S.S. "GENERAL RANDALL".

Arrived Melbourne from Bombay 12th February and sailed for Los Angeles 14th February.

U.S.S. "GENERAL McRAE".

Arrived Melbourne from San Pedro 30th January and sailed for Calcutta 3rd February. Arrived Melbourne from Calcutta 18th March and sailed for Townsville 23rd March.

U.S.S. "GENERAL MORETON".

Arrived Melbourne from San Pedro 30th January and sailed for Calcutta 3rd February. Arrived Melbourne from Calcutta 18th March and sailed for Manus 19th March.

U.S.S. "ADMIRAL W.S. BENSON".

Arrived Melbourne from San Pedro 14th March and sailed for Bombay 16th March.

U.S.S. "GENERAL R.E. CALLAN".

Arrived Melbourne from San Pedro 11th April and sailed for Calcutta 13th April.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

U.S.S. "GENERAL MITCHELL".

Arrived Melbourne from Bombay 12th February and sailed for Auckland 14th March.

U.S.S. "GENERAL MANN".

Arrived Melbourne from San Pedro 22nd February and sailed for Bombay 25th February. Arrived Melbourne from Bombay 28th March and sailed for Noumea 29th March.

A.S.C. "URALBA".

Arrived Melbourne from Sydney 21st March. Proceeded to Swan Island 25th March to load Depth Charges and sailed for Sydney 27th March.

ADMIRALTY CHARTERED OILER "SAN AMBROSIA".

Arrived Melbourne from Fremantle 14th February for repairs. Completed repairs and sailed for Manus 28th February.

M.F.A. "STAGPOOL".

Arrived Melbourne from Adelaide 24th February for docking and sailed for Newcastle 7th March.

V.S.I.S. "DENBIGHSHIRE".

Arrived Melbourne 4th February. Loaded stores and meat and sailed for Sydney 8th February.

M.S.L. 705.

Taken over from builders 11th April. Completed with stores and cargo and, after trials, sailed for Sydney 13th April.

2. ENGINEERING.

Work carried out in ships during the quarter was as follows.

A. Ships fitted with LA. HA/LA, Bofors, U.P. Pillar Box, Oerlikon Stiffenings, F.A.Ms., or removal of A.A. Armament totalled - 8.

B. Ships on which repairs repositioning armament, making lockers and repair to P/V equipment etc. totalled - 31.

C. 1 in No. H.M.A. Mobile Works Ship refitting and conversion.

D. Testing of P/Vs and replacements of running gear, testing of F.A.M. and U.P. Pillar Box circuits etc., by D.E.M.S. Staff totalled - 73.

E. Maintenance of H.M.A. Ships attached to this Port and visiting Warships totalled - 21.

F. Refits of H.M.A. Ships totalled - 6.

G. Repairs to H.D.M.Ls. totalled - 1.

H. Motor Boat refits and maintenance have not been shown in above figures.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

3

DEFENSIVE EQUIPMENT OF MERCHANT SHIPS.

During the three months ending 30th April, 1945, all D.E.M. Ships which entered the Port of Melbourne were boarded and inspected by D.E.M.S. Staff.

The Vessels comprised:-

BRITISH Register		62
COMMONWEALTH	"	114
U.S.A.	"	85
NORWEGIAN	"	19
GREEK	"	7
DUTCH	"	7
DANISH	"	1
YUGO-SLAV	"	1
		296

A/A Equipment was removed from 15th vessels in accordance with Naval Board's letter 674/201/3078.

Vessels Defensively Equipped.

Dutch D.E.M.S. "MERAK". 4" Q.F. MK.XIX, in lieu of 4" Q.F. Mk.IV
Three 20MM Oerlikons, in lieu of Three Pairs .5 Colts.

Paravanes.

Paravanes completely overhauled and repaired	56
Vessels refitted wires, etc.	71

Electrical Defects.

Telephones, F.A.M.S and Pillar Box Circuits in D.E.M.S. Repairs and tests carried out.	107
D.C. Pistols ex H.M.A. Ships: Tested and overhauled.	332

4. DEGAUSSING.

During the months of February, March and April, 1945, the degaussing equipment of 137 Merchant and 9 War Ships were tested electrically and the equipment of 10 Merchant and 10 Warships were taken in hand for essential repairs.

Essential repairs to H.M.A.S. "GOULBURN", H.M.A.S. "LITHGOW" and H.M.A.S. "GASCOYNE" were carried out by H.M.A. Dockyard, Williamstown..

Compass adjustments were made for D/G Effects on 8 H.M.A. and 8 D.E.M. Ships.

Summary of L.L. S.A. work carried out during February, March & April, 1945.

Tests and overhaul of L.L. Sweep Equipment to
H.M.A.S. "JUNEE"
" "CAIRNS"
" "GERALDTON"
" "CESSNOCK"
" "GYMPIE" (initial trials)

Removal of Type C, S.A. Gear from H.M.A.S. "JUNEE" and installation of Type A, Mark 4.

Installation of Type A, Mark 4 equipment progressed in H.M.A.S. "CESSNOCK", "GERALDTON" and "CAIRNS".

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

5. GUNNERY DEPARTMENT.

(i) GUNNERY INSTRUCTIONAL CENTRE. 438 personnel of D.E.M.S. crews including Merchant Navy and Maritime Regiment personnel have attended the Gunnery Instructional Centre for refresher courses. Personnel of H.M.A. Ships refitting at Melbourne have attended for similar instruction and drill on 4" Q.F. MK.XIX and 40 m.m. Bofors guns.

Successful firings at parachute targets have been carried out on completion of courses at Fort Gellibrand range with Bofors, Oerlikon and .303 guns. In addition D.E.M.S. and M.N. personnel carried out firings on rocket weapons at the range.

(ii) ORDNANCE BASE STAFF The Ordnance Staff have been fully employed making good defects and carrying out maintenance routines on the armament of D.E.M. ships, also overhauling and fully refitting armament on H.M.A. ships carrying out refits at Melbourne. A total of 102 merchant ships had maintenance and repairs carried out, including 37 where 6 months routines were completed during the period under review.

(iii) OPTICAL ORDNANCE WORK SHIP. The Optical staff have been fully employed carrying out maintenance repairs for H.M.A. and D.E.M. ships visiting this port. During the period under review 56 pairs of Binoculars, 32 gun sighting telescopes, 14 telescopes and various other items have been taken in hand. Preparations for the installation of a Blooming Plant have been made at the Gunnery Centre in the Dome Building. Telescope collinator, cementing table and Binocular inspection stand have been fitted to meet the increasing volume of work.

(iv) H.M.A. SHIPS REFITTING. During the period under review the following ships have been taken in hand for refitting and re-arming.

H.M.A.S. NIZAM	H.M.A.S. GYMPIE
H.M.A.S. JUNEE	H.M.A.S. SEA SNAKE
H.M.A.S. GOULBURN	H.M.A.S. GLENELG
H.M.A.S. GASCOYNE	H.M.A.S. PING WO
H.M.A.S. CAIRNS	H.M.A.S. NAPIER
H.M.A.S. CESSNOCK	H.M.A.S. BARCOO
H.M.A.S. GERALDTON	H.M.S. ULSTER.
H.M.A.S. LITHGOW	

6. ANTI-SUBMARINE.

The following work was carried out by the Base A/S Staff for the quarter ending 30th April, 1945.

A. One ship was fitted with A/S and L.I.S.A.

B. A/S and E/S installations in eight ships, two of which were converted to later types, were refitted.

C. Inspection, Repair and Maintenance of A/S, E/S and L.I.S.A. installations was carried out in twenty eight ships.

7. RADAR.

The activities of the Port Radar Staff from 1st February, 1945 to 30th April, 1945 was as follows.

(a) SHIPS FITTING COMPLETED.

	Radar Sets fitted.
H.M.A.S. "GLENELG"	A276 (Experimental Serial 2).
	253
H.M.A.S. "BARCOO"	253
H.M.A.S. "NAPIER"	SG - 1.
H.M.A.S. "GOULBURN"	253

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

7. RADAR (Contd.)

(b) SHIPS BEING FITTED 31.2.45.

	Radar Sets fitted
H.M.A.S. "LITHGOW"	253
H.M.A.S. "GYMPIE"	253

(c) All ships under refit have all modifications available fitted, sets serviced and fully tested. Trials are carried out after refit or fitting.

(d) 17 H.M.A. Ships, 1 H.M. Ship, 2 H.M. Submarines, 1 U.S. Transport, 15 D.E.M.S., 1 U.S.N. Transport, 2 H.N.M. Ships were inspected, repaired and maintenance carried out during quarter.

(e) Ships under refit at Adelaide were visited as necessary by Port Radar Staff.

8. REHABILITATION.

During the quarter the total number of officers and ratings demobilised and discharged was 194. Of this number only one, a hospital case, was unplaced.

9. NAVAL AUXILIARY PATROL. (VOLUNTEER)

There are available in the outputs 93 personnel and a total of 42 vessels for emergency service.

10. W.R.A.N.S.

128 new entries have been trained at H.M.A.S. "Lonsdale" during the past three months.

A dance to celebrate the fourth anniversary of the W.R.A.N.S. was held in the Drill Hall at H.M.A.S. "Lonsdale" on 28th April.

11. WORKS, BUILDINGS, ETC.

H.M.A. Naval Store Depot.

The construction of the Naval Store Depot, corner of Graham Street and Esplanade West, Port Melbourne has been completed and is now fully established as a Naval Store Depot.

12. H.M.A.S. "LONSDALE".

Average number borne in H.M.A.S. "Lonsdale" and tenders was 1794

13. NAVAL RESERVE DEPOT, WILLIAMSTOWN.

A. PERSONNEL. During the quarter 785 ratings were victualled in and 701 checked out.

61 patients were admitted to sick bay and 530 were placed on the attending list during this period.

B. FUELLING. A total of 37 vessels were fuelled during the quarter and 11 vessels discharged fuel to the Installations. 19152 tons of fuel were issued and fuel received was 25026 tons. Fuel remaining on 30th April was 17175 tons, representing 52 per cent of total capacity. Repairs to the swing arm in No.2 tank at the Williamstown Installation are being carried out.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

13. NAVAL RESERVE DEPOT, WILLIAMSTOWN (Contd.)

C. BOATS HELD FOR CUSTODY, ETC. The motor launch "Westwind" was taken over by the Colonial Trawling Co., on Friday, 16th March, and Motor Launch "Lady Madge" by Mr. Ashburner on Wednesday, 25th April. The motor boat "Alancia" is held on behalf of the Disposals Commission and the ketch "Foam" is still berthed at the Boatshed jetty.

The ketch "Terralinna" was taken over by her owner on Tuesday, 20th March.

D. BOATSHED AND WORKSHOPS. The necessary refit and repair work has been carried out on motor boats in use and in reserve. Use of the planing machine has been discontinued because of unsafe gearing. This machine is to be removed for repairs. Workshop facilities have been afforded in this regard. Application has been made for a one ton Weston purchase to be fitted on the existing overhead rails in the engineers' workshop in order to complete workshop equipment.

E. CLOTHING STORE. A total of £1396 has been received for clothing taken up on repayment through the clothing store.

F. GENERAL. Naval Officer-in-Charge, Port Melbourne, carried out an inspection of Naval Reserve Depot and Boatsheds on 10th April, 1945 and Oil Fuel Installations at Williamstown and Newport on 17th April, 1945.

14. NAVAL RECRUITING OFFICE.

During the quarter 2231 applications were received. A total of 8 officers, 415 ratings, 108 W.R.A.N.S. and 5 N.D.P. were entered. Manpower Replacements 49, W.R.A.N.S. 2.

15. AIR OPERATIONS ROOM, SOUTHERN AREA.

During the quarter the following Radar tests, sleeve target practices and exercises have been arranged by Air Operations Room, Southern Area.

(i) Radar Tests.

H.M.A.S. "GLENELG"	14.2.45
H.M.S. "ULSTER"	18.2.45
H.M.A.S. "BARCOO"	8.3.45
H.M.A.S. "GOULBURN"	3.4.45

(ii) Sleeve Target.

R.N.N. "TROMP"	28.2.45
H.M.A.S. "NAPIER"	29.3.45
(Special throw off H.A. Firing)	

(iii) Dummy Bombing

R.N.N. "TROMP"	28.2.45
H.M. Submarine "VOX"	9.3.45
H.M. Submarine "VIRTUE"	13.4.45

16. WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY.

11 vessels were taken in hand for servicing, repairs and modifications. 3 of these ships were at Adelaide.

17. NAVAL CONTROL SERVICE.

216 overseas vessels arrived during the quarter and 222 departed. 230 interstate vessels arrived and 245 departed.

18. SEA TRANSPORT OFFICE.

During the quarter 897 persons were embarked in 30 vessels and 3454 disembarked from 20 vessels. 15,111 tons of service cargo were discharged from 145 vessels and 115,280 tons of service cargo were loaded into 181 vessels.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

19. NAVAL RAILWAY TRANSPORT OFFICE.

During the quarter 18,403 officers and men passed through the Railway Transport Office. 2200 Sets of Mess Gear and 1900 blankets were issued and 1750 Sets of Mess Gear and 1800 blankets were received.

20. H.M.A.S. "LONSDALE".

(a) Average daily number borne in H.M.A.S. "Lonsdale" and tenders was 1794.

(b) Amount paid to personnel of H.M.A.S. "Lonsdale" and tenders during quarter - £98173.

(c) Clothing sold on repayment - £4721.

(d) Gratuitous Issues of Clothing - £1860.

(e) Patients treated in Sick Bay - 2283.

(f) Patients treated by Dental Officer - 1623.

21. CIVIL SECRETARY'S BRANCH.

Expenditure	£843,110
Receipts	27,500
Expense Accounts (Naval Stores drawn and recoverable)	£28,290
Accounts Paid	3,142
Requisitions funded	1,511
Numbers Borne	261

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

TELEPHONE No.

Commonwealth of Australia

Department of The Navy.

St 6301

DEPT. OF NAVY
2026-7-460
SECRET

ACK. BY: A.B. 1330
14 FEB 1945
INIT.

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE

No. C.2201/1

SECRET

NAVAL STAFF OFFICE
Port Melbourne,
12th February, 1945.

The Secretary, Naval Board,
Navy Office, MELBOURNE.

WAR DIARY : H.M.A.S. "LONSDALE".

FOR THREE MONTHS ENDED 31ST JANUARY, 1945.

Submitted for the information of the Naval Board in accordance with Navy Office letter 035037 of 8th November, 1940 is the attached summary of events for H.M.A.S. "Lonsdale", Local Defence Vessels and Establishments under my command for the period three months ended 31st January, 1945.

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

DONS

DNI.

21/2

Please return to DNI (NHRO)

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL
RCDIG1074122

OPERATIONS.

H.M.A.S. "KOROWA". During November "Korowa" towed targets on 7th and carried out sweeps off Wilson's Promontory between 8th and 15th. Radar Calibration with H.M.A.S. "Ballarat" was carried out on 18th and 19th. Between 20th and 22nd sweeping was carried out in Cape Otway Area. Targets were towed on 23rd. Vessel conducted exercises with R.N.N. Submarine K.14 between 23rd and 30th.

Repairs to damaged Hawse Pipe were carried out between 30th Nov. and 21st Dec. when vessel towed targets for H.M.A.S. "Ballarat". On 21st Dec. sweeps and patrols were carried out in Wilson's Promontory and Cape Otway areas.

Between 2nd and 9th January, "Korowa" under the orders of H.M.A.S. "Hobart" during working up period. Radar calibrations were carried out with H.M.A.S. "Bowen" on 7th. Sweeping was carried out off Cape Nelson, Cape Otway and Wilson's Promontory between 10th and 22nd January. Gunnery trials were carried out on 23rd and on 24th R.N.N. Submarine "K.14" was escorted to a position off Cape Nelson. For the remainder of the month targets were towed for H.M.A.S. "Nizam" and Radar tests carried out for that vessel.

H.M.A.S. "DOOMBA".

Vessel completed boiler repairs at Williamstown on 2nd November and resumed training cruise, leaving Port Phillip on 10th and returning on 13th for exercises with R.N.N. Submarine "K.14", remaining in Melbourne until 1st December. "Doomba" returned on 4th December and carried out training cruises until 20th, returning on 23rd January and sailing for Sydney 29th.

H.M.A.S. "GLENELG".

Vessel arrived Melbourne 2nd January and commenced refit.

H.M.A.S. "NIZAM".

Vessel arrived Melbourne 2nd November and commenced refit, Trials and working up were commenced on 31st January.

H.M.A.S. "KYBRA".

Vessel arrived Melbourne on 11th November on training cruise and sailed for Devonport on 16th November.

H.M.A.S. "KIAMA".

Vessel arrived Melbourne from Sydney 30th December and sailed for Adelaide after fuelling on 31st December.

H.M.A.S. "LISMORE".

Vessel arrived Melbourne from Fremantle 11th December and sailed for search for Suspected Enemy submarine in Bass Straits on 13th returning to Melbourne on 15th. Sailed for sweep in Bass Strait on 17th, returning to Melbourne 21st for boiler clean. Sailed for rendezvous with H.M.A.S. "Coombar" on 29th December.

H.M.A.S. "MARYBOROUGH".

Vessel arrived Melbourne from Fremantle on 11th December and sailed for search for Suspected Enemy submarine in Bass Straits on 13th December returning on 16th. Sailed 17th for sweep in Bass Strait and returned to Melbourne for boiler clean 21st. Sailed for Jervis Bay 27th.

H.M.A.S. "BURNIE".

Vessel arrived Melbourne from Fremantle on 11th December and sailed for search for Suspected Enemy submarine in Bass Straits on 13th December returning to Melbourne on 15th. Sailed 17th for sweep in Bass Strait and returned to Melbourne for boiler clean 21st. Sailed for Jervis Bay 27th.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

H.M.A.S. "BALLARAT".

Completed refit on 17th November and commenced trials, sailing for Sydney on 23rd November.

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

Vessel arrived Melbourne from Adelaide 26th December for inclining tests and sailed for Jervis Bay 27th December.

H.M.A.S. "GOULBURN".

Vessel arrived Melbourne from Sydney 18th December. Carried out gunnery exercises 21st. Sailed for Jervis Bay 24th December.

H.M.A.S. "HOBART"

Vessel arrived Melbourne from Sydney 31st December for working up and sailed for Sydney 12th January.

H.M.A.S. "YANDRA".

Vessel arrived Melbourne from Sydney 5th December and sailed for Sydney on 8th December.

H.M.A.S. "WHYALLA".

Vessel arrived Melbourne from Sydney 15th December and sailed for operations in Bass Straits the same day, returning to Melbourne on 18th for boiler clean. Sailed for Jervis Bay 27th December.

H.M.A.S. "BOWEN".

Vessel arrived Melbourne from Sydney 9th November and commenced refit. Trials were commenced on 7th and "Bowen" sailed for Sydney 24th January.

H.M.A.S. "PLATYPUS".

Vessel completed refit and trials and sailed for Sydney 16th December.

H.M.A.S. "PIRIE".

Vessel arrived Melbourne from Brisbane 18th December and sailed for Fremantle on 19th December.

H.M.A.S. "QUIBERON".

Vessel arrived Melbourne from Fremantle 23rd December and sailed for Sydney 25th December, returning to Melbourne 5th January and sailing for Sydney the same day.

H.M.S. "QUADRANT".

Vessel arrived Melbourne from Fremantle 23rd December and sailed for Sydney 25th December, returning to Melbourne 5th January and sailing for Sydney the same day.

H.M.S. "QUALITY".

Vessel arrived Melbourne from Fremantle 23rd December and sailed for Sydney 25th December, returning to Melbourne 5th January and sailing for Sydney the same day.

H.M.S. "QUILLIAM".

Vessel arrived Melbourne from Fremantle 23rd December and sailed for Sydney 25th December, returning to Melbourne 5th January and sailing for Sydney the same day.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

H.M.S. "STRIKER".

Arrived Melbourne from Fremantle 23rd December, discharged aircraft, and sailed for Sydney 29th December.

H.M.S. "FENCER".

Arrived Melbourne from Fremantle 23rd December, discharged aircraft, and sailed for Sydney 29th December.

H.M.S. "GAMBIA".

Arrived Melbourne from Fremantle 31st October and sailed for Wellington 1st November.

H.M.A.S. "LIMICOLA".

Arrived Melbourne from Sydney 4th December and sailed for Fremantle via Adelaide 11th January.

H.M.A.S "ADELAIDE".

Completed refit and trials and sailed for Sydney 4th January.

H.M.A.S. "BLACK SNAKE".

Vessel was taken over from builders 28th December and commissioned 30th December. After trials "Black Snake" sailed for Sydney 3rd January.

H.D.M.L. 1352.

Sailed for Fremantle 3rd December.

H.D.M.L. 1340.

Sailed for Fremantle 3rd December.

H.M.A.S. "WESTWIND".

Paid off 22nd ~~December~~ November for disposal.

H.M.A.S. "ALEXANDER THOMPSON".

Paid off into Maintenance Reserve 22nd ~~December~~ November.

H.M.A.S. "NEPEAN".

Paid off 22nd ~~December~~ November for disposal.

transfer could not be effected on the carlier stated date as 22/11/44 is and was received 30/11/44.

H.N.M.S. "ABRAHAM CRIJNSSEN".

Stationed at Port Melbourne during quarter. Sailed for training cruise 12th January and ran ashore at Foster Inlet 21st January. Refloated and proceeded Hobart, returning to Melbourne 2nd February.

H.N.M.S. "K.14".

Arrived Melbourne from Fremantle 20th November for refit and departed for Fremantle 24th January after trials and exercises.

H.N.M.S. "K.15".

Completed refit and sailed for Fremantle 16th November after trials and exercises.

H.N.M.S. "MERAK".

Vessel was stationed at Melbourne during quarter.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

U.S.S. "GENERAL McRAE".

Arrived Melbourne from San Pedro 30th January and sailed for Calcutta 2nd February.

U.S.S. "GENERAL MORETON".

Arrived Melbourne from San Pedro 1st February and sailed for Calcutta 2nd February.

U.S.S. "GENERAL POPE".

Arrived Melbourne from San Pedro 26th November and sailed for Bombay 27th November, Arrived Melbourne from Bombay 28th December and sailed for Wellington 30th January.

U.S.S."ADMIRAL BENSON".

Arrived Melbourne from San Pedro 15th December and sailed for Bombay 18th December. Arrived Melbourne from Bombay 17th January and sailed for Los Angeles 19th January.

U.S.S. "GENERAL BUTNER".

Arrived Melbourne from San Pedro 7th November and sailed for Bombay 10th November.

U.S.S. "GENERAL ANDERSON".

Arrived Melbourne from Bombay 17th November and sailed for Brisbane 18th December.

2. ENGINEERING.

Work carried out in ships for the quarter was as follows:-

1. Ships fitted with LA, HA/LA, Bofors, U.P. Pillar Box, Oerlikon stiffenings, F.A.Ms., or removal of "A.A." Armament totalled 11.

2. Ships on which repairs, repositioning armament, making lockers and repair to P/V equipment etc., totalled 25.

3. 1 in No. H.M.A. Repair Ship refitting and conversion for Tropical Service.

4. Testing of P/Vs and replacements of running gear, testing F.A.M. and U.P. Pillar Box Circuits etc. by D.E.M.S. Staff totalled 80.

5. Maintenance of H.M.A. Ships attached to this Port and visiting warships totalled 17.

6. Refits of H.M.A. Ships totalled 3.

7. Repairs to HD/MLs totalled 2.

8. N.A.P. Refit and maintenance have not been shown in above figures.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

3. DEFENSIVE EQUIPMENT OF MERCHANT SHIPS:

During the three months ending 31st January, 1945, all D.E.M. Ships which entered the Port of Melbourne were boarded and inspected by D.E.M.S. Staff.

The vessels comprised:-

BRITISH Register		60
COMMONWEALTH Register		134
U.S.A.	"	47
NORWEGIAN	"	16
GREEK	"	10
DUTCH	"	5
PANAMANIAN	"	2
POLISH	"	-
HONDURAS	"	1
DANISH	"	1
YUGO-SLAV	"	1
		277

A/A Equipment removed in accordance with Naval Board's letter 674/201/3078.

"KOOLIGA"	One 20 MM Oerlikon MK IV Four .303 Vickers Machine Guns Four P.A.C. Projectors "D" type
"LUTANA"	Two .303 Vickers Machine Guns.
"LANENA"	Two .303 Vickers Machine Guns
"CAPE YORK"	Two 20 MM Oerlikons MK IV Two .303 Vickers Machine Gun Two P.A.C. Projectors "D" type.
"KORANUI"	Two .303 Hotchkiss Four PAC "D" type
"NAIRANA"	One 20 MM Oerlikon Two P.A.C. "D" type
"IRON KING"	Two Pairs .30 Marlins Two P.A.C. "D" type

Exchange of Ammunition Outfits in Accordance with C.N.O. 20/42

"Iron Master", "Iron Prince", Iron King", "Nairana", "Lanena", "Koranui", "Woniora", "Cape York", "Lutana", "Koolinda".

PARAVANES

Paravanes completely overhauled and repaired	39
Vessels refitted wires, etc.	55

ELECTRICAL DEFECTS.

Telephones, F.A.M.S. and Pillar Box circuits in D.E.M.S. Repairs and tests carried out.	71
D.C. Pistols tested and overhauled.	208

CHANGES IN PERSONNEL. D.E.M.S. SHIPS. 186

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

4. DEGAUSSING.

During the months of November, December, 1944 and January, 1945, the degaussing equipments of 108 Merchant and 13 Warships were tested electrically and the equipments of 23 Merchant and 5 Warships were taken in hand for modification or essential repairs.

(ii) The redegauss was completed on D.E.M.S. "ALBERT HILL" and redegaussing of H.N.M.S. "MERAK" was commenced.

(iii) Degaussing work on D.E.M.S. "RIVER LODDON" was completed by H.M.A. Dockyard, Williamstown, and "RIVER MITTA" taken in hand.

(iv) Modifications to D/G installation of S.A. & L.L. Gear were carried out by the Dockyard on H.M.A.S. "NIZAM".

(v) Compass adjustments were made for D/G effects on 3 H.M.A. and 7 D.E.M. Ships.

(vi) L.L. and S.A. modifications were carried out as requisite on A.M.S.'s refitting and reports for these have been furnished in accordance with C.C.N.O. 81.

(vii) S.A. Gear, Type A, Mark 4, was installed in H.M.A.S. "BOWEN".

5. GUNNERY DEPARTMENT.

(i) GUNNERY INSTRUCTIONAL CENTRE. D.E.M.S. crews including Merchant Navy and Maritime Regiment personnel have attended the Gunnery Instructional Centre for refresher courses. Personnel of H.M.A. ships refitting at Melbourne have attended for similar instruction and drill on 4" Q.F. MK.XIX and 40 m.m. Bofors guns.
Successful firings at parachute targets have been carried out on completion of courses at Fort Gellibrand range with Bofors, Oerlikon and .303 guns. In addition D.E.M.S. and M.N. personnel carried out firings on rocket weapons at the range.

(ii) ORDNANCE BASE STAFF. The Ordnance Staff have been fully employed making good defects and carrying out maintenance routines on the armament of D.E.M.Ships, also overhauling and fully refitting armament on H.M.A. ships carrying out refits at Melbourne. A total of 106 merchant ships had maintenance and repairs carried out, including 57 where 6 months routines were completed during the period under review.

(iii) OPTICAL ORDNANCE WORK SHOP. The Optical Workshop has been fully employed cleaning, repairing, adjusting and completely overhauling gun sighting telescopes, binoculars and optical instruments in H.M.A. and D.E.M. ships visiting Melbourne.

(iv) H.M.A. SHIPS REFITTING. During the period under review the following ships have been taken in hand for refitting and re-arming.

H.M.A.S. "NAPIER" carried out extensive gunnery refit and has been fitted with two twin MK.VIIA power worked Oerlikon mountings. All other guns have been stripped and thoroughly overhauled.

H.M.A.S. "BOWEN" completed refit and has been fitted with a Q.F. 4" MK.XIX gun on MK.XXIII^{X} mounting, also 40 m.m. Bofors gun in lieu of the after Oerlikon mounting.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

6.
ANTI-SUBMARINE.

(i) Twenty-six A/S installations in the following ships were refitted.

H.M.A.S. ADELAIDE
BALLARAT
BOWEN
GLENELG
NIZAM
H.N.M.S. K.14.
K.15.

(ii) Inspection, Repair and Maintenance was carried out in the following ships:-

H.M.S. FENCER
QUADRANT
QUALITY
QUILLIAM
STRIKER
H.M.A.S. BALLARAT
BATHURST
BURNIE
DOOMBA
GOULBURN
HOBART
KALGOORLIE
KIAMA
KYBRA
LATROBE
LISMORE
LIMICOLA (E/S)
MARYBOROUGH
PIRIE
QUIBERON
WHYALLA
YANDRA
H.M.A. M.L. 1340
1352
H.N.M.S. ABRAHAM CRIJNSSEN
S.S. AJAX (E/S)
CITY OF BRISTOL
CLAN URQUHART
HORORATA
PRIAM
UMTATA
RIVER LODDON (E/S)

7. RADAR.

The activities of the Port Radar staff for the quarter was as follows:-

(a) SHIP FITTINGS COMPLETED

	Set fitted.
H.M.A.S. "PLATYPUS"	253
H.M.A.S. "NIZAM"	285M (4) to P (4) SG-1 progressed.
H.M.A.S. "BOWEN"	253
H.M.A.S. "BALLARAT"	A286Q 253

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

(b) SHIPS BEING FITTED 31.2.45.

	Set fitted.
H.M.A.S. "GLENELG"	A276
	253

(c) All visiting ships, as well as those under refit, when fitted with Radar are inspected and repaired by Port Radar staff. 20 H.M.A. Ships, 5 H.M. Ships, 2 Dutch S/M's, 2 U.S. Transports and 18 D.E.M. Ships were inspected, repaired, and maintenance carried out during the quarter.

(d) Radar trials are carried out using aircraft and surface vessels on all ships after refit.

(e) Port Radar staff as requisite proceed to Adelaide to assist in the refits of A.M.S. and H.D.M.Ls.

8. REHABILITATION.

During the quarter the total number of officers and ratings demobilised and discharged was 143. Of this number, 136 have been placed in permanent positions. Seven were unplaced of which four were hospital cases.

9. NAVAL AUXILIARY PATROL

(i) The Maintenance Division of the Melbourne Flotilla (unmobilised) were engaged in completing the repairs to the vessels loaned for Patrol operations until December 23rd - upon which date the personnel of this Division were also placed in reserve.

(ii) All Naval equipment on loan to the Queens Wharf Repair Base has now been returned to Store and the leasing of the site is no longer a charge to the Department.

(iii) The outport Divisions of Portland and Port Fairy were visited by the Naval Officer-in-Charge on November 30th and December 1st respectively. Convoy pattern Signal Lamps (for signal practice) were supplied to the outports of Portland, Port Fairy, Newhaven and San Remo, Port Welshpool and Lakes Entrance.

(iv) There are available in the outports 93 personnel and a total of 42 vessels for emergency service.

10. W.R.A.N.S.

A total of 71 new entries passed through the Depot during the quarter.

11. WORKS, BUILDINGS, ETC.

Refitting Berth. Work on the establishment of Refitting Berth at Nos. 1, 2 and 3 South Wharf has been completed and the berth was occupied for Naval purposes as from 13th November, 1944, and activities at Victoria Dock ceased as from that date.

H.M.A. Naval Depot. The construction of the new Naval Store Depot at Graham Street, Port Melbourne, is proceeding. The administrative block has been completed and occupied.

One half of the store is completed, and transfer of stores to that section will probably be effected by mid February.

It is anticipated that the whole Depot will not be completed before the end of March, 1945.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

12. H.M.A.S. "LONSDALE".

Average numbers borne in H.M.A.S. "Lonsdale" and tenders were 1619. Of this number, approximately 300 were borne for victuals only.

13. NAVAL RESERVE DEPOT, WILLIAMSTOWN.

Personnel. During the quarter 445 ratings were victualled in and 450 checked out. During this period 60 patients were admitted to the Sick Bay and 373 were placed on the attending list.

Fuelling. A total of 40 vessels were fuelled during the quarter and four vessels discharged fuel to the installations. Fuel issued amounted to 16,983 tons and fuel received was 19,957 tons. Fuel remaining at 31st January was 11,263 tons, representing 33 per cent of the total capacity.

Boats De-commissioning, etc. H.M.A. ships "Westwind" and "Alexander Thomson" (Naval Auxiliary Patrols) were paid off from 22nd November, 1944.

The Auxiliary Ketches "Terralinna" and "Foam" were received for custody on 30th November and 13th December respectively. These vessels, together with "Westwind", "Lady Madge" and "Alancia" are held on behalf of the Disposals Commission.

The launch "Nordecia" has been taken in hand by J.J. Savage & Son for refit prior to reversion to owner.

Three 40 ft. Naval Work Boats, Nos. 690, 691 and 692 were received for custody from the builders (General Motors - Holdens Ltd) on 20th November, 20th December and 29th November respectively. On 18th January crews were provided to take these boats to Victoria Dock whence they were shipped for Island bases.

Boatshed and Workshop. The usual refit and repair work has been carried out on the various motor boats in use and in reserve.

Clothing Store. A total of £1264.11.0. has been received for clothing taken up on repayment through the clothing store.

General. The new recreation hut, the gift of Victorian Racing Clubs, was formally taken over on 1st November, 1944.

14. NAVAL RECRUITING OFFICE.

During the quarter 2174 applications were received. A total of 2 officers, 295 ratings, 56 W.R.A.N.S. and 4 N.D.P. were entered.

15. AIR OPERATIONS, SOUTHERN AREA.

Air cover was arranged for 28 Commissioned Ships, 2 Class I Ships and 10 U.S.N. Transports.

(ii) Radar Tests were carried out with 2 H.M.A. Ships.

(iii) Sleeve Targets were towed for 5 H.M.A. Ships.

(iv) Five exercises with H.M.A. Ships and Submarines were carried out.

16. NAVAL CONTROL SERVICE.

A total of 187 overseas vessels arrived at Melbourne and 199 departed during the quarter. 268 interstate vessels arrived and 302 departed.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

17. SEA TRANSPORT OFFICE.

During the quarter 364 persons were embarked in 35 vessels whilst 2,344 disembarked from 20 vessels. 129,894 tons of cargo was loaded into 137 vessels and 35,726 tons was discharged from 119 vessels.

18. NAVAL RAILWAY TRANSPORT OFFICE.

During the quarter officers and ratings passing through the Railway Transport Office were 15,907. Average 172 personnel daily.

Approximately 2110 sets of mess gear and 1387 blankets were issued and 1850 sets of mess gear and 1600 blankets were received from personnel travelling to and from South and Western Australia.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

TELEPHONE No.

ACK. BY. A.S. 1330Y
20 NOV 1944
INIT.

DEPT. OF NAVY
St 6301
2026-7-460.
SECRET

HNV 10/4/42

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE
No. C.2201/1

Commonwealth of Australia

Department of The Navy.

NAVAL STAFF OFFICE
Port Melbourne,
14th November, 1944.

SECRET

The Secretary, Naval Board,
Navy Office, MELBOURNE.

WAR DIARY : H.M.A.S. "LONSDALE".

FOR THREE MONTHS ENDED 31ST OCTOBER, 1944.

Submitted for the information of the Naval Board in accordance with Navy Office letter 035037 of 8th November, 1940 is the attached summary of events for H.M.A.S. "Lonsdale", Local Defence Vessels and Establishments under my command for the period three months ended 31st October, 1944.

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

24/11

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

1. OPERATIONS:

H.M.A.S. "ALLENWOOD". During August "Allenwood" was stationed at Port Phillip Heads for sweeping duties. On 2nd August defective ammunition ex Maribyrnong was dumped at sea. Full calibre firings were carried out on 14th August. On 15th August, N.A.P. moorings off Queenscliff were recovered and landed. D/F calibration with H.M.A.S. "Cowra" was carried out on 17th August. From 27th August to 29th August vessel was at Western Port for instructional duties with Torpedo Staff from H.M.A.S. "Cerberus". On 31st August W.R.A.N.S. training classes were embarked. Refit was commenced on 1st September and on 14th October "Allenwood" sailed for Sydney, paying off on 31st October.

H.M.A.S. "KOROWA". During August, "Korowa" carried out sweeps in the vicinity of Cape Otway and Wilson's Promontory returning to Williamstown to refuel as necessary. New W/T equipment was fitted between 12th and 16th August. Sweeping was similarly carried out during September and October. Between 17th and 20th September, two drifting barges were recovered off Cape Everard. Condemned ammunition was dumped outside the Heads on 27th September. Targets were towed on 28th September. On 3rd and 9th October Radar calibrations were carried out with H.M.A.S. "Stawell", and H.M.A.S. "Napier". Targets were towed for H.M.A.S. "Nepal" on 19th October. On 24th October vessel proceeded to rendezvous with Dutch submarine K.15. Three condemned depth charges were dropped on 25th October.

H.M.A.S. "DURRAWEEN". "Durraween" completed refit and sailed for Sydney 30th August, arriving there on 2nd September.

H.M.A.S. "ADELAIDE". "Adelaide" arrived Williamstown 13th October and commenced refit.

H.D.M.L. 1327. H.D.M.L. 1327 proceeded on Echo Sounding Gear trials on 9th August and sailed for Sydney on 10th August, arriving on 12th August.

H.D.M.L. 1329. H.D.M.L. 1329 proceeded on trials on 19th August and sailed for Sydney on 23rd August, arriving on 25th August.

H.D.M.L. 1340. H.D.M.L. 1340 arrived Williamstown 24th October from Sydney and is now awaiting shipment to Fremantle.

H.D.M.L. 1352. H.D.M.L. 1352 arrived Williamstown 24th October from Sydney and is now awaiting shipment to Fremantle.

M.S.L. 703. M.S.L. 703 was taken over from builders on 11th September and sailed for Sydney on 13th September.

M.S.L. 704. M.S.L. 704 was taken over from builders on 23rd October and sailed for Adelaide on 26th October. Vessel anchored in Apollo Bay on 26th October owing to unfavourable weather and sailed on 29th October, putting into Port Fairy the same day owing to mechanical trouble.

H.M.A.S. "HEROS". H.M.A.S. "Heros" arrived Williamstown from Sydney on 10th August and sailed for Newcastle with lighter "Mombah" in tow on 14th August.

H.M.A.S. "PLATYPUS". H.M.A.S. "Platypus" undergoing refit and conversion for tropical service at Port Melbourne.

H.M.A.S. "BALLARAT". H.M.A.S. "Ballarat" arrived Williamstown from Sydney on 28th September and commenced refit.

H.M.A.S. "STAWELL". H.M.A.S. "Stawell" arrived Williamstown from Sydney 11th August and commenced refit and sailed on 5th October for Brisbane on completion.

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H.M.A.S. "BINGERA". H.M.A.S. "Bingera" sailed from Melbourne for Western Port on 3rd August, returning on 7th August. Vessel remained in Port Phillip for training exercises until 31st August when she departed for Sydney.

H.M.A.S. "COWRA". H.M.A.S. "Cowra" completed refit and sailed for Brisbane on 19th August.

H.M.A.S. "DOOMBA". H.M.A.S. "Doomba" visited Melbourne on training cruises between 31st August and 1st September, 12th September and 10th October. Vessel arrived 23rd October for boiler repairs at Williamstown and for training.

H.M.A.S. "NEPAL". H.M.A.S. "Nepal" arrived Williamstown from Fremantle 15th August, and sailed for Sydney 16th August. Arrived Melbourne 3rd October for working up practice and sailed for Fremantle on 11th October.

H.M.S. "GAMBIA". H.M.S. "Gambia" arrived Williamstown from Fremantle 29th October and sailed for Wellington on 1st November.

H.M.A.S. "KYBRA" H.M.A.S. "Kybra" arrived Williamstown from Westernport 30th August and sailed for Devonport 31st August on training cruise.

NETHERLANDS SUBMARINE K.15. K.15 arrived Williamstown from Fremantle on 24th October and commenced refit.

F.F.S. "SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA". "Savorgnan de Brazza" arrived Williamstown from Sydney 7th August and sailed for Adelaide 9th August.

U.S.N.T. "GENERAL ANDERSON". U.S.N.T. "General Anderson " arrived Melbourne from Bombay 26th August and sailed for Los Angeles 27th August. Vessel arrived Melbourne from San Pedro 12th October and sailed for Bombay 15th October.

U.S.N.T. "GENERAL BUTNER". U.S.N.T. "General Butner" arrived Melbourne from Los Angeles 11th August and sailed for Bombay 13th August. Vessel arrived Melbourne from Bombay 14th September and sailed for Los Angeles 16th September.

U.S.N.T. "GENERAL MITCHELL". U.S.N.T. "General Mitchell" arrived Melbourne from Los Angeles 23rd September and sailed for Bombay 24th September. Vessel arrived Melbourne from Bombay 27th October and sailed for Russell Islands 28th October.

U.S.N.T. "GENERAL RANDALL". U.S.N.T. "General Randall" arrived Melbourne from Los Angeles 21st September and sailed for Bombay 24th September. Vessel arrived Melbourne from Bombay 27th October and sailed for Wellington 28th October.

U.S.S. "MIZAR". U.S.S. "Mizar" arrived Melbourne from Brisbane 21st September and sailed for Brisbane 23rd September.

H.M.A.S. "TIGERSNAKE". H.M.A.S. "Tigersnake" commissioned 22nd August and after trials sailed for Fremantle via Adelaide 6th September.

H.M.N.S. "ABRAHAM CRIJNSSEN". H.M.N.S. "Abraham Crijnssen" was stationed at Port Melbourne during the quarter.

NETHERLANDS DEPOT SHIP "MERAK". Netherlands Depot Ship "Merak" was stationed at Williamstown during the quarter.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

2. ENGINEERING:

Work carried out in ships for the quarter was as follows:-

A. Ships fitted with LA, HA/LA, Bofors, U.P. Pillar Box, Oerlikon stiffenings, F.A.Ms. - totalled 13.

B. Ships on which repairs, repositioning armament, making lockers and repair to P/V equipment etc. - totalled 21.

C. 1 in No. H.M.A. Repair Ship refitting and conversion for tropical service.

D. Testing of P/Vs and replacements of running gear, testing F.A.Ms. and U.P. Pillar Box circuits etc. by D.E.M.S. Staff - totalled 76.

E. Maintenance of H.M.A. Ships attached to this Port and visiting Warships - totalled 8.

F. Refits of H.M.A. Ships - totalled 5.

G. Repairs to HD/MLs - totalled 3.

H. N.A.P. Refit and maintenance have not been shown in above figures.

3. DEFENSIVE EQUIPMENT OF MERCHANT SHIPS:

During the three months ending 31st October, 1944, all D.E.M. Ships which entered the Port of Melbourne were boarded and inspected by D.E.M.S. Staff.

The vessels comprised:-

BRITISH Register		74
COMMONWEALTH	"	137
U.S.A.	"	58
NORWEGIAN	"	19
GREEK	"	10
DUTCH	"	7
PANAMANIAN	"	2
POLISH	"	1
		308

VESSELS DEFENSIVELY EQUIPPED.

Commonwealth equipped with	4" Q.F. MK.XIX	1
" " "	40mm. Bofors	-
" " "	20mm. Oerlikon	-
British & Allied Registry.		
Equipped with	4" Q.F. MK.XIX	1
" "	12 Pdr. HA/LA	-
" "	40mm. Bofors	-
" "	20mm. Oerlikon	1
" "	P.A.C.	-
" "	F.A.M.	1

PARAVANES.

Paravanes completely overhauled and repaired	27
Vessels refitted wires, etc.	31

ELECTRICAL DEFECTS.

Telephones, F.A.M.s and Pillar Box Circuits in D.E.M.S. Repairs and tests carried out.	85
D.C. Pistols tested and overhauled	179

CHANGES IN SHIPS OF D.E.M.S. PERSONNEL. 132

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4. DEGAUSSING:

During the months of August, September and October, 1944, the degaussing equipments of 105 Merchant 7 Warships were tested electrically and the equipments of 22 Merchant and 5 Warships were taken in hand for essential repairs.

D.E.M.S. "KOOMILYA" was redegaussed, and redegaussing of H.M.A.S. "PLATYPUS" was progressed.

Modifications to D/G installation of S.A. Gear, Type C, Mark 2, on H.M.A.S. "NAPIER" and progressing of degaussing on "RIVER LODDON" were carried out by H.M.A. Dockyard, Williamstown. L.L. and S.A. trials were carried out on H.M.A.S. "NAPIER", H.M.A.S. "ALLENWOOD" and H.M.A.S. "STAWELL".

Compass adjustments were made for D/G effects on 9 H.M.A. and 13 D.E.M. Ships.

5. GUNNERY DEPARTMENT:

Gunnery Instructional Centre, Port Melbourne has been fully employed training D.E.M.S. and Maritime Regimental Artillery personnel from Merchant Ships in port. A small number of Merchant Navy personnel have attended for the three day Merchant Navy anti-aircraft machine gunners course. Numbers trained are as follows:-

Merchant Navy personnel	61
D.E.M.S. and Maritime Regimental Artillery	976

The instructional firing range has been used with considerable success and a marked improvement in efficiency was shown amongst those attending.

Ordnance Base Staff. Ordnance Base Staff have been fully employed on the maintenance of the armament of D.E.M. Ships and have also carried out major refits on the following H.M.A. Ships.

H.M.A.S. "Napier"
" "Stawell"
" "Cowra"
" "Ballarat"
" "Platypus"

The following vessels have re-armed at Port Melbourne or have had additional armament fitted.

H.M.A.S. "Nizam" - Additional armament fitted
" "Platypus" - "
" "Tiger Snake" - New construction
" "Cowra" - Re-armed and additional armament fitted
" "Stawell" - "
" "Ballarat" - "

Optical Workshop. All optical instruments from ships refitting at Port Melbourne have been thoroughly over-hauled, cleaned and repaired.

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6. ANTI-SUBMARINE:

The following ships were fitted out.

H.M.A. M.L.1327 (type 762 E/S).
" 1329 (type 134A A/S).

The A/S installations in the following ships were refitted and/or converted to a later type.

H.M.A.S. "Adelaide"
" "Ballarat"
" "Cowra"
" "Napier"
" "Stawell"

Repair and Maintenance work was carried out on the following ships.

H.M.S. "Gambia"

H.M.A.S. "Doomba"
" "Mildura"
" "Nepal"

H.M.A. M.L. 1340
" 1352

H.N.M.S. "Abraham Crijnssen"

S.S. "Priam"
" "Samanco"
" "Socotra"

The Base A/S Staff was also engaged on the refitting of A.M.S. vessels in Port Adelaide.

7. RADAR:

Work carried out in ships for the quarter was as follows:-

(i) Ships fitted and completed.

H.M.A.S. "Cowra"
" H.D.M.L. 1329
" "Napier"
" "Stawell"
H.M.A. M.L.1327

(ii) Ships at present being fitted (31/10/44)

H.M.A.S. "Ballarat"

(iii) Ships on which inspection, maintenance or repair were carried out.

H.M.A.S.	"Mildura"	D.E.M.S.	"Clan MacDonald"
"	"Doomba"	"	"Orari" (twice)
"	"Adelaide"	"	"Samanco"
"	H.D.M.L. 1340,1352.	"	"Chanda" (twice)
H.M.S.	"Gambia"	"	"Herefordshire"
D.E.M.S.	"Ajax"	"	"Priam"
"	"Lanarashire"	"	"Port Charmers"
		"	"Waipawa"

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

8. REHABILITATION:

During the quarter the total number of officers and ratings demobilised and discharged was 165. Of this number, 155 have been placed in permanent positions. 10 were unplaced, mostly being hospital cases.

9. VICTORIAN SQUADRON NAVAL AUXILIARY PATROL:

During the quarter under review H.M.A. Ships "Alexander Thompson", "Nepean" and "Westwind" ceased to be utilized on Examination Service duties at Port Phillip Heads as from September 15th, 1944.

Port Fairy Division (Unmobilized)

Notification was received from R.A.A.F. Intelligence Branch that a call for help had been received from a point off the coast in the vicinity of Peterborough. The nearest division was that of Port Fairy and, on their being notified, the sea-going sloop "Dolphin" put out to sea within an hour and steamed over 80 miles in search of any craft in distress. No vessel, wreckage, rubber dinghy or trace of aircraft was found and it appears likely that the alarm was false.(7.8.44)

Geelong Division. (Unmobilized)

The vessels and personnel of the Geelong Division (Unmobilized) were placed in Reserve as from August 28th, 1944 and, with the exception of the Maintenance Division, the Melbourne Flotilla as from 16th September. The Maintenance Division is still operating, refitting the vessels which have been used in maintaining security patrols during the last two years.

General.

H.M.A. Ships "Alexander Thompson", "Nepean" and "Westwind" have, during the period under review, maintained continuous security patrols as and when considered necessary on account of the presence of valuable ships in the Harbour.

The Maintenance Division of the Melbourne Flotilla (Unmobilized) has been employed on engine repairs and overhauls and general maintenance of non-commissioned boats to the extent of approximately 1521 man hours.

10. W.R.A.N.S.:

A total of 100 new entries passed through the Depot during the quarter.

11. WORKS, BUILDINGS, ETC.:

Refitting Berth.

Work on the establishment of the Refitting Berth Nos. 1, 2 and 3 South Wharf, is almost completed.

H.M.A. Naval Depot.

Work has begun on the construction of a new Naval Store Depot situated on Graham Street, Port Melbourne, between Esplanade East and Esplanade West.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

12. PERSONNEL:

Average numbers borne in H.M.A.S. "Lonsdale" and tenders were 1816. Of this number 500 approximately, were borne for victuals only.

13. NAVAL RESERVE DEPOT, WILLIAMSTOWN:

Personnel. During the last quarter 387 ratings were victualled in and 412 checked out making a total of 799. During this period, 36 patients were admitted to Sick Bay and 215 were placed on attending list.

Fuelling. During this quarter 34 vessels were fuelled, receiving a total of 13,304 tons of fuel. Six vessels discharged fuel, quantity received being 5345 tons. It is interesting to note that 20 of the vessels fuelled were U.S. Tankers operated by W.S.A.

Ships and boats requisitioned, de-commissioned etc. - Nil.

N.A.P. Base. The usual refits and repair work have been carried out on the three Channel Patrol Boats manned by N.A.P. personnel. Work has been continued on N.A.P. Vessels in reserve and most are ready for return to owners when required. The planing machine has received attention but is still not considered satisfactory and the suppliers have been requested to make further adjustments.

Clothing Store. A total of £1250. 0. 6 has been received for clothing taken up on repayment through the clothing store.

General. The Minister for the Navy accompanied by the Secretary of the Department of the Navy and in the presence of the Naval Officer-in-Charge, Port Melbourne, ~~inspected~~ walked around the Depot on 31st October.

14. NAVAL RECRUITING OFFICE:

During the quarter 1375 applications were received. A total of 7 officers, 257 ratings and 57 Wrans were entered during the quarter.

15. AIR OPERATIONS, SOUTHERN AREA:

Air cover was arranged for four commissioned ships, eleven Class I. ships and forty four tankers. Radar tests were carried out with four H.M.A. ships and Sleeve target practices with two H.M.A. ships.

16. NAVAL CONTROL SERVICE:

A total of 194 overseas vessels arrived at Melbourne whilst 203 departed during the quarter. Interstate arrivals totalled 268 whilst departures were 284.

17. SEA TRANSPORT OFFICE:

During the quarter 738 persons were embarked in 39 vessels whilst 948 persons disembarked from 19 vessels. 112,618 tons of cargo was loaded in 124 vessels and 29,984 tons was received from 115 vessels.

18. NAVAL RAILWAY TRANSPORT OFFICE:

During the quarter 13,309 officers and ratings passed through the Railway Transport Officer's hands. Approximately 1300 sets of mess gear and 950 blankets were issued and 1000 sets of mess gear and 700 blankets were received.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

TELEPHONE No. St 6301

Commonwealth of Australia

Department of The Navy.

DEPT. OF NAVY
2026.7.460.
SECRET

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE
No. C.2201/1

CK. BY. A.S. 1330Y
23 AUG 1944
INIT.

SECRET

NAVAL STAFF OFFICE
Port Melbourne,
9th August, 1944.

HW 10/4/42

The Secretary, Naval Board,
Navy Office, MELBOURNE.

WAR DIARY : H.M.A.S. "LONSDALE"

FOR THREE MONTHS ENDED 31ST JULY, 1944.

The following summary of events for H.M.A.S. "LONSDALE", Local Defence Vessels and establishments under my command covering the three months ended 31st July, 1944, is submitted for the consideration of the Naval Board in accordance with Navy Office letter 035037 dated 8th November, 1940.

2. OPERATIONS:

H.M.A.S."ALLENWOOD": During May "Allenwood" was stationed at Port Phillip Heads for the purpose of daily sweeps of S.C.F.6. On 10th May "Allenwood" was inspected by Naval Officer-in-Charge, Port Melbourne. On Tuesday 23rd May the experimental loop cable laid off Breakwater Pier, Hobson's Bay, was recovered and landed at Williamstown the following day. On Wednesday, 31st instant, "Allenwood" arrived at Westernport where 36 officers and men from Flinders Naval Depot were embarked for instruction in "LL" and "SA" sweeping. Fumigation of the ship was carried out at Williamstown on the 18th July. "LL" and "SA" sweeps were exercised on the 19th instant. Defective Army ammunition was dumped at sea on the 22nd, 23rd, 24th and 25th of June. Radar Trials and D/F Calibration with H.M.A.S. "Ararat" were carried out on the 27th instant. On the 28th June, "Allenwood" again returned to Westernport for the instruction of trainees in "LL" and "SA" sweeping. During July, "Allenwood" was stationed at Port Phillip Heads for further daily sweeps of S.C.F.6. On 11th July, "Allenwood" relaid motorboat moorings at Queenscliff. On 15th July, Lieutenant W.A. Wilson, R.A.N.R. assumed command of "Allenwood" vice Lieutenant Commander L. Murphy, R.A.N.R.

HW 23/8

H.M.A.S."KOROWA": During May, "Korowa" carried out sweeps in the vicinity of Cape Otway and Wilson's Promontory, returning to Williamstown for fuel as necessary. Between the 23rd and 27th May, daily sweeps of S.C.F.6. were carried out. Operations in the Wilson's Promontory area were again carried out between the 1st and 16th June when "Korowa" was taken in hand at Williamstown for annual refit. Refit was completed on 18th July whence "Korowa" proceeded for operations in the Wilson's Promontory area. "Korowa" returned to Williamstown on 28th July for fuel etc., and sailed for operations in the Cape Otway and Wilson's Promontory areas a.m. 31st July.

H.M.A.S."DURRAWEEN": Operating at Port Phillip Heads from 3rd to 6th May on daily sweeps of S.C.F.6. During this period a full gale was experienced with wind force 10. On the 6th May a quantity of condemned Depth charges were embarked from Swan Island for dumping on passage to Wilson's Promontory. From 7th to 17th May, operating in Wilson's promontory area, returning to Williamstown for fuel and stores as necessary. On 18th and 19th May, targets were towed for Day and Night Shoots by Coastal Artillery. Sweeping Operations were carried out in the Wilson's Promontory area from 21st to 29th, fog and rough easterly weather being experienced. On the 27th, monthly firing was carried out with all armament. Returned to Williamstown on 30th instant for boiler cleaning.

25/8 C

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

H.M.A.S."DURRAWEEN"(contd.) : For the period 3rd to 28th June, sweeping operations were carried out in the Wilson's Promontory area. During this period, 3 tons of condemned explosives were dumped on passage. On 29th June, returned to Williamstown to coal. 1st to 7th July, carried out daily sweeps of S.C.F.6. On 7th, sailed for sweeping operations in Wilson's Promontory area. On the 8th July "Durraween" recovered a barge which had broken adrift from s.s."Ramo". This was returned to "Ramo" in Waterloo Bay. On the 17th instant "Durraween" returned to Williamstown and was taken in hand for annual refit.

M.S.L.702: On Wednesday, 26th July, M.S.L.702 was taken over from builders. After completing with stores etc. lighter sailed for Sydney on 30th July.

H.D.M.L.1329 : H.D.M.L.1329 arrived at Melbourne from Launceston on 28th June and was taken in hand for fitting of A/S gear.

H.D.M.L.1327 ; H.D.M.L.1327 arrived at Melbourne on 21st June after an extremely rough voyage from Hobart. Vessel was immediately taken in hand for the fitting of Echo Sounding gear.

H.M.A.S."COWRA" : H.M.A.S."Cowra" arrived at Melbourne on 4th July and was immediately taken in hand for refit. Ship's company was granted leave, reliefs and working parties being supplied by "Lonsdale".

H.M.A.S."PLATYPUS": On 12th June, H.M.A.S."Platypus" arrived at Port Melbourne and commenced refitting and conversion for tropical service.

H.D.M.L.1324; H.D.M.L.1324 arrived at Melbourne from Adelaide for the installation of A/S gear on 22nd June. On completion of trials etc., H.D.M.L.1324 sailed for Sydney on 30th July, 1944.

H.M.A.S."QUIBERON": On 24th May, H.M.A.S."Quiberon" arrived in Port Phillip for annual refit and docking. On completion of Gunnery and Radar trials etc., "Quiberon" sailed for Fremantle on 14th July, 1944.

H.M.A.S."FREMANTLE": H.M.A.S."Fremantle" arrived Melbourne on 30th March and sailed for Brisbane on 8th May after completing annual refit and docking.

H.M.A.S."ARARAT": H.M.A.S."Ararat" completed docking and refit during the period 11th May to 27th June. After completion of trials etc., "Ararat" sailed for Brisbane on 29th June, 1944.

H.M.S. ."ARIADNE": H.M.S."Ariadne" arrived Melbourne a.m. 1st July for refitting and docking. After completing refit on 14th July "Ariadne" sailed for Geelong to load with mines. "Ariadne" departed Port Phillip for Sydney on 21st July and carried out exercises with attacking aircraft in Bass Strait.

LIGHTER"MOMBAH": During the quarter, progress continued in fitting out the Lighter "Mombah" for Naval Service.

U.S.N.T."GENERAL RANDALL": Arrived Port Phillip 26th July and berthed at Port Melbourne. After completing with fuel and provisions, vessel departed Melbourne 28th July for Los Angeles.

U.S.N.T."GENERAL BUTNER": Arrived Port Phillip 15th June, 1944 and after completing with fuel and provisions etc., departed on 17th June for Los Angeles.

U.S.N.T."GENERAL ANDERSON": Arrived Port Phillip 22nd July and departed 24th July for Bombay.

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H.M.A.S."BINGERA": During the quarter under review, "Bingera" carried out annual refit and docking at Melbourne. Refit commenced on 10th May and completed on 8th June. "Bingera" sailed for Western Port on 9th June, 1944 and again visited Melbourne on Training Cruises during the periods 21st June to 7th July, 10th July to 11 July, arriving again on the 20th July.

U.S.S."LARK": Arrived Melbourne on 13th May, departing again for Brisbane on 15th May.

U.S.S."MIZAR": Arrived Melbourne on 6th May and departed 10th May for Sydney.

U.S.S."Y.P.286": Arrived Melbourne 22nd May and departed 29th May for Sydney.

H.M.A.S."KERANGI": Arrived Melbourne 4th June and after completing with stores and fuel, departed for Fremantle on 6th June, 1944.

3. ENGINEERING:

Work carried out on ships for the three months ending 31st July, 1944, was as follows:

1. Ships fitted with LA, HA/LA, Bofors, U.P. Pillar Box Oerlikon stiffenings, F.A.M.'s: totalled 10

2. Ships on which repairs, repositioning armament making lockers and repair to P/V Equipment etc.: totalled 17.

3. 1 in No. Coal Hulk fitted out for Naval Service.

4. 1 in No. H.M.A. Repair Ship, refitted and converted for tropical service.

5. Testing of P/V's and replacements of running gear, testing F.A.M's. & U.P. Pillar Box circuits etc. by D.E.M.S.Staff: totalled 61.

6. Maintenance of H.M.A. Ships attached to this Port and visiting Warships : totalled 4.

7. Refits of H.M.A. Ships: totalled 6

8. Repairs to HD/ML's totalled 3.

4. DEFENSIVE EQUIPMENT OF MERCHANT SHIPS:

During the three months ending 31st July, 1944, all D.E.M. Ships which entered the Port of Melbourne were boarded and inspected by D.E.M.S. Staff.

The vessels comprised:-

BRITISH Register		60
COMMONWEALTH	"	155
U.S.A.	"	37
NORWEGIAN	"	19
GREEK	"	8
DUTCH	"	4
PANAMANIAN	"	3
YUGO-SLAV.	"	1
		287

VESSELS DEFENSIVELY EQUIPPED.

Commonwealth	equipped with	4" Q.F. MK.XIX	1
"	"	40mm. Bofors	1
"	"	20mm. Oerlikon	1

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British & Allied Registry.

Equipped with	4" Q.F. MK.XIX	1
"	" 12 Pdr. HA/LA	1
"	" 40mm. Bofors	1
"	" 20mm. Oerlikon	4
"	" P.A.C.	1
"	" F.A.M.	1

PARAVANES.

Paravanes completely overhauled and repaired	33
Vessels refitted wires, etc.	29

ELECTRICAL DEFECTS.

Telephones, F.A.Ms. and Pillar Box Circuits in D.E.M.S. Repairs and tests carried out.	63
D.C. Pistols tested and overhauled	319

CHANGES IN SHIPS OF D.E.M.S. PERSONNEL. 157

5. DEGAUSSING:

During the quarter, the degaussing equipments of 144 Merchant and 5 Warships were tested electrically and the equipments of 41 Merchant and 6 Warships were taken in hand for essential repairs. D.E.M.S. "COLAC" was redegaussed, and H.M.A.S."PLATYPUS" and D.E.M.S. "TRIENZA" were taken in hand for redegaussing.

Degaussing equipment was progressed in "RIVER LODDON" and repairs to D/G on H.M.A.S. "QUIBERON" and H.M.A.S. "BINGERA" were carried out by H.M.A. Dockyard, Williamstown.

Compass adjustments were made for D/G. effects on 4 H.M.A. and 19 D.E.M. Ships.

L.L. and S.A. modifications were carried out as requisite on A.M.S.'s refitting and reports for these and H.M.A.S. "ALLENWOOD" have been furnished in accordance with C.C.N.O. 81.

6. GUNNERY DEPARTMENT:

Ordnance Base Staff have been fully employed making good defects and carrying out maintenance routine on the armament of D.E.M. Ships visiting Melbourne and H.M.A. Ships refitting.

The Optical Workshop has more than justified its establishment and the present staff is insufficient to cope with increasing volume of repair work from ships refitting at Melbourne and Adelaide.

Instructional Centre. All D.E.M.S. crews including a small number of Merchant Navy personnel from overseas ships and coastal traders have attended the G.I.C. for refresher courses. An instructional firing range has been equipped at Fort Gellibrand with Bofors, Oerlikon •303 Guns in addition to all Rocket weapons installed on Merchant ships. H.M.A. Ships refitted, refitting and rearmed.

The following H.M.A. Ships have carried out refits at Melbourne. "QUIBERON", "COWRA", "PLATYPUS", "KOROWA", "MOMBAH", "DURRAWEEN", "FREMANTLE", "LITHGOW", "ARARAT", and "BINGERA". And of these the following have been or are being rearmed:- "QUIBERON", two twin Oerlikons and fitted with A.B.U.; "BINGERA", one 4"MK.XXXIII*, one Bofors 40 mm.,two Oerlikons; "LITHGOW", one 4" MK.XXIII* ; "COWRA", one 4" MK.XXIII*, one 40mm. Bofors; "ARARAT", one 4"MK.XXIII* ; "MOMBAH", four •303" Vickers; "PLATYPUS", two 4" MK.XXIII* and six Oerlikons MK.VIIA.

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7. ANTI-SUBMARINE:

The following ships are at present fitting out.

H.M.A. M.L.1324
" M.L.1327
" M.L.1329

The following ships were refitted at Melbourne during the quarter.

H.M.A.S. "FREMANTLE"
" "ARARAT"
" "BINGERA"
" "QUIBERON"
" "ARIADNE"
" "COWRA"

Repair and Maintenance was carried out on the undermentioned vessels.

H.N.M.S. "ABRAHAM CRIJNSSEN" (Type 127 A/S Installation)
S.S. "SARMIENTO" (Type 136 A/S Installation)
U.S. S.S.WILBUR O. ATWATER"
U.S. S.S."ESSO NORFOLK" (Fathometer)
U.S. S.S."FRANKLIN P. MALL" (Fathometer)
U.S. S.S."DARTMOUTH" (Fathometer)

8. RADAR:

During the quarter the Port Radar Staff installed, repaired or overhauled Radar equipment in the following vessels:

H.M.S. "ARIADNE"
H.M.A.S. "QUIBERON"
H.M.A.S. "ARARAT"
H.M.A.S. "COWRA"
H.M.A.S. "FREMANTLE"
H.M.A.S. "BINGERA"
H.M.A.S. H.D.M.L.1324
H.M.A.S. H.D.M.L.1329

D.E.M.S. "SARMIENTO"
D.E.M.S. "CLAN MACAULEY"
D.E.M.S. "HIGHLAND PRINCESS"
D.E.M.S. "SYDNEY STAR"
D.E.M.S. "PORT MACQUARIE"
D.E.M.S. "CITY OF CALCUTTA"
D.E.M.S. "EMPIRE REGENT"
D.E.M.S. "RIMUTAKA"

In conjunction with Radar Directorate, Navy Office, close liaison was maintained with Radar manufacturers and P.M.G. Radio Research Laboratory.

9. REHABILITATION:

During the months of May, June and July, the total number of officers and ratings demobilised and discharged was 126. Of this number, 119 have been placed in permanent positions ashore. Seven were unplaceable, at present being Hospital cases.

10. VICTORIAN SQUADRON NAVAL AUXILIARY PATROL:

During the quarter under review, H.M.A. Ships "Alexander Thompson", "Nepean" and "Westwind" (Commissioned N.A.P. Vessels) were utilized on Examination Service duties at Port Phillip Heads.

Lakes Entrance Division (unmobilised).: On 12th May vessels of the Division made a search for an aircraft believed to have been forced down. Aircraft was eventually located on 90 Mile Beach. On 30th May a further search was made for a Service Aircraft believed forced down in the sea. A rubber dingy was eventually located with four survivors who were landed at Lakes Entrance.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

The Maintenance Division of Melbourne Flotilla has been engaged on engine repairs and general overhauls of unmobilised boats involving a total of approximately 1612 man hours.

11. W.R.A.N.S.:

Heaters have been installed in all Wran Huts and Recreation Rooms. A total of seventy six new entries passed through the depot during the quarter.

12. WORKS, BUILDINGS, ETC.:

Refitting Berth:- Work in connection with the construction of the Refitting Berth at Nos. 1, 2 and 3 South Wharf is progressing satisfactorily.

W.S.S. Cape Otway and Gabo Island : These stations have now closed down, the former on the 10th June and the latter on 20th July, 1944.

13. PERSONNEL:

Average numbers borne in H.M.A.S. "LONSDALE" and tenders were 1325. A total of 4227 ratings were checked in and out of "LONSDALE" during the quarter.

14. NAVAL RESERVE DEPOT, WILLIAMSTOWN:

PERSONNEL: During the quarter under review numbers victualled in were 511, numbers checked out 579, total 1090. During this period 53 patients were admitted to Sick Bay and 156 were placed on the attending list.

FUELLING: During the above quarter 25 ships received fuel and 3 ships discharged fuel. The total quantity of fuel issued was 11,613 tons, whilst the amount received was 6,937 tons. At present the stocks remaining are 56% of full capacity.

SHIPS AND BOATS REQUISITIONED, DE-COMMISSIONED, ETC: Nil.

N.A.P. BASE: A considerable amount of engine and machinery overhauling and general maintenance of N.A.P. Vessels has been carried out in the repair shops at the Boatshed. N.A.P. Vessels in reserve have been slipped and repainted. The new machinery for the Engineers' and Shipwrights' Shops has now been installed and is working satisfactorily with the exception that the planing machine has been incorrectly assembled and is awaiting attention.

CLOTHING STORE: A total of £1386.8.6 has been received for clothing taken up on repayment through the clothing store.

15. NAVAL RECRUITING OFFICE:

During the quarter a total of 1492 applications were received from applicants desirous of joining the Naval Service. A total of 3 Officers, 276 Ratings and 70 Wrans were mobilised during the quarter.

16. AIR OPERATIONS, SOUTHERN AREA:

Air cover was arranged for 13 Commissioned Ships, 8 Class 1 ships and 13 Merchant ships, mainly tankers. Radar tests were arranged for 4 H.M.A. Ships whilst sleeve target practice was arranged for 1 H.M.A. Ship.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

17. NAVAL CONTROL SERVICE:

A total of 146 overseas vessels arrived at Melbourne whilst 181 departed this port during the quarter. Interstate arrivals totalled 270 whilst departures were 222.

18. EXAMINATION SERVICE:

A total of 381 vessels passed through the Examination Service during the quarter.

19. SEA TRANSPORT OFFICE:

During the quarter 624 personnel were embarked in 39 vessels whilst 1513 personnel disembarked from 16 vessels. 42,792 tons of cargo was loaded in 126 vessels and 116,649 tons of cargo was received from 127 vessels.

20. NAVAL RAILWAY TRANSPORT OFFICE.

During the quarter under review, approximately 30,000 Naval personnel passed through the Railway Transport Office, Melbourne.

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

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

18/5

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY. 2026/7/460

MINUTE PAPER.

8644. 16/5

SUBJECT: H. M. A. S. "Lonsdale" — War Diary

~~D of P.~~ 17/5/44

DCNS 18/5

~~DNS.~~ 19/5

~~N.W.H.~~ 20/5

D/~~N.H.~~ 30/5.

File

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL
RCDIG1074122

TELEPHONE No.

AOK. BY. A.S. 13309
13 MAY 1944
INIT.

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DEPT. OF NAVY
2026/7/460
SECRET

File HN 10/4/42.

Commonwealth of Australia

Department of The Navy.

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE

No. C.2201/1

SECRET

NAVAL STAFF OFFICE
Port Melbourne,
9th May, 1944.

The Secretary, Naval Board,
Navy Office, MELBOURNE.

HN.

WAR DIARY : H.M.A.S. "LONSDALE".

FOR THREE MONTHS ENDED 30th APRIL, 1944.

The following summary of events for H.M.A.S. "LONSDALE", Local Defence Vessels and establishments under my command covering the three months ended 30th April, 1944 is submitted for the consideration of the Naval Board in accordance with Navy Office Letter 035037 dated 8th November, 1940.

2. OPERATIONS:

H.M.A.S."ALLENWOOD": Sweeping Area S.C.F.6 returning Williamstown to coal when necessary. On 4th February Targets were towed for Sub-Calibre Shoot by Coastal Batteries. Radar trials were carried out in conjunction with "Orara" on 15th February and "Bunbury" on 19th February. On Monday, 20th March between the hours of 2130 and 2200, Targets were towed for Point Nepean Battery Shoot. A new "LL" Sweep was fitted on Monday, 27th to replace the defective cable previously carried. The new cable was veered for testing during Wednesday, 29th, it fouled the propellors which necessitated "Allenwood" being towed to port, where a diver removed the turns of cable from the screws. On the 6th and 7th April, "Allenwood" acted as target for H.M.A.S. "Lithgow" during D/F calibration and Radar Trials.

H.M.A.S."KOROWA": Operating in Cape Otway and Wilson's Promontory Area from 1.2.44 to 22.2.44. Returned to Port Melbourne 23rd February. Ships' company attending "Lonsdale" for Gunnery and Field Exercises. Carried out daily sweeps of S.C.F.6 from 4th March to 18th March. Sailed on 23rd March for Operations in Wilson's Promontory Area. Coaled Welshpool 31st March. Berthed Williamstown 21st April. Departed Port Phillip for Wilson's Promontory Area 26th April. "Korowa" was inspected by the Naval Officer-in-Charge, Port Melbourne on 22.3.44.

H.M.A.S. "DURRAWEEN": Inspected by the Naval Officer-in-Charge, Port Melbourne on 23rd February. Operating Wilson's Promontory Area 25th February to 18th March, refuelling at Welshpool as necessary. 19th March returned to Williamstown. 27th March departed Williamstown for daily sweeps S.F.6. 14th April at Williamstown for boiler clean.

H.M.A.S."ORARA": On 18th February "Orara" departed Port Phillip for Sydney.

H.M.A.S. "BINGERA": Operating on training cruises between Flinders Naval Depot and Port Phillip Bay for Officer's Training Classes, under orders of the Naval Officer-in-Charge, Flinders Naval Depot.

H.M.A.S."LITHGOW": On 14th February "Lithgow" arrived in Port Phillip with M.L.s 824 and 826 in tow. "Lithgow" commenced refit on Wednesday, 15th February, completing on 4th April, 1944. "Lithgow" departed Port Phillip for Sydney in company with Netherlands submarine K.12 on 7th April, 1944.

H.M.A.S."RANEE": Arrived Melbourne 13th April en route from Cochin. Saturday, 15th April, "Ranee" departed Port Phillip.

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AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

H.D.M.L.1326: Arrived Port Phillip 29th January from Launceston. Entered Hobson's Bay Company Floating Dock on 4th February, undocking 16th February. Whilst in dock A/S gear was fitted. On completion of trials on 8th March, H.D.M.L.1326 departed Port Phillip for Sydney in company with H.D.M.L.1323.

H.D.M.L.1323: Arrived Port Phillip 27th January from Adelaide. Docked on 4th February, undocking 16th February after A/S gear had been fitted. Departed Port Phillip for Sydney 8th March in company with H.D.M.L.1326.

U.S.S."WHIPPOORWILL: Arrived Port Phillip from Fremantle 13th March, 1944. After refuelling, departed Port Phillip for Brisbane 15th March.

H.M.A.S."MARTINDALE": Arrived Port Phillip from Adelaide 14th March. After completing with fuel and stores "Martindale" departed Port Phillip for Sydney 16th March, 1944.

U.S.S."GANYMEDE": Arrived Port Phillip 21st February from Sydney. After completing defects, "Ganymede" departed Port Phillip for Sydney 2nd March, 1944.

H.M.A.S."ADELAIDE": Arrived Port Phillip from Fremantle 5th February escorting U.S.A.T. "Mariposa". Departed Port Phillip 6th February escorting "Mariposa". Entered Port Phillip 11th February. After completing dry docking and making good defects "Adelaide" departed Port Phillip for Fremantle 21st February.

H.M.A.S."BUNBURY": Completed refit and departed Port Phillip for Brisbane 23rd February.

U.S.N.T."YUMA": Arrived Port Phillip from Sydney, towing Floating Dock ARD 10 12th February, 1944. Departed Port Phillip for Fremantle towing Floating Dock ARD 10, 20th February. Arrived Port Phillip from Fremantle 31st March. After completing with stores and fuel etc., departed Port Phillip for Brisbane with Dredge D.York Syme in tow 7th April, 1944.

H.M.A.S."SHAH: Arrived Port Phillip 6th February. After completing with fuel and stores etc., departed Port Phillip for Fremantle 8th February, 1944.

H.M.A.S."WHANGPU": Completed conversion to repair ship and after satisfactory completion of trials etc., departed Port Phillip for Sydney 18th April, 1944.

H.N.M. SUBMARINE K.12: Arrived Port Phillip from Fremantle 31st March. After completing with fuel etc., departed Port Phillip for Sydney on 7th April under escort of H.M.A.S. "Lithgow".

H.M.A.S."NORMAN": Arrived Port Phillip from Fremantle 21st April. Completed with fuel, stores etc., and departed Port Phillip for Sydney 23rd April, 1944.

U.S.N.T. MOUNT VERNON: Arrived Port Phillip 15th March from San Pedro. Departed Port Phillip 17th March for Bombay after completing with fuel etc. Entered Port Phillip 26th April and berthed Princes Pier on arrival Port Melbourne. On completing with fuel and stores etc., departed Port Phillip 28th April for San Francisco.

3. ENGINEERING:

Work carried out on ships for the three months ending 30th April, 1944 was as follows:

1. Ships fitted with LA, HA/LA, Bofors, U.P. Pillar Box, Oerlikon stiffenings totalled 13.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

2. Ships on which repairs, repositioning armament, making lockers and repair to P/V equipment etc., totalled 37.

3. 1 in No. Ship converted to Mobile Workshop and armed with Anti Aircraft Armament.

4. Testing of P/V's and replacements of running gear, testing F.A.M. and U.P. Pillar Box circuits etc., by D.E.M.S. Staff, totalled 86.

5. Maintenance of H.M.A. Ships attached to this Port and visiting Warships totalled 11.

6. Refits of H.M.A. Ships totalled 3.

7. Repairs to H.D./M.L.S., Fairmiles totalled 6.

8. N.A.P. refit and maintenance have not been shown in above figures.

4. DEFENSIVE EQUIPMENT OF MERCHANT SHIPS:

During the three months ending 30th April, 1944, all D.E.M. Ships which entered the Port of Melbourne were boarded and inspected by D.E.M.S. Staff. The vessels comprised:-

BRITISH REGISTER		53
COMMONWEALTH	"	117
U.S.A.	"	33
NORWEGIAN	"	12
GREEK	"	7
DUTCH	"	7
PANAMANIAN	"	2
YUGO-SLAV.	"	3
		221

VESSELS DEFENSIVELY EQUIPPED.

Commonwealth equipped with	40mm. Bofors	2
" " "	20mm. Oerlikon	4
" " "	P.A.C. Projector(D)	1
" " "	.303 Vickers	3
British & Allied Registry.		
Equipped with	40mm. Bofors	2
" "	20mm. Oerlikons	5
" "	2" UP Rocket Projector (P.B.)	2

PARAVANES.

Paravanes completely overhauled and repaired	32
Vessels refitted wires, etc.	

ELECTRICAL DEFECTS.

Telephones, F.A.Ms. and Pillar Box Circuits in D.E.M.S. Repairs and tests carried out.	39
D.C. Pistols tested and overhauled	154

CHANGES IN SHIPS OF D.E.M.S. PERSONNEL. 121

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

5. RADAR:

During the quarter the Port Radar Staff installed, repaired or overhauled Radar equipment in the following vessels:-

1. H.M.S. "RANEE"
"SHAH"
H.M.A.S. "ADELAIDE"
"NORMAN"
"BUNBURY"
"LITHGOW"
"ORARA"
"WHANGPU"
M.L.B. 812
824
826
U.S.S. "YUMA"
D.E.M.S. "PORT PHILLIP"
"PRIAM"
"UMTALI"
"AJAX"
"SUSSEX"
"EMPIRE GRACE"
"CLAN FORBES"

2. In conjunction with Radar Directorate, Navy Office, tests have been carried out on Radar equipment under development.

6. VICTORIAN SQUADRON NAVAL AUXILIARY PATROL:

During the period under review, the mobilized vessels of N.A.P., apart from maintaining regular Patrol, effected the rescue of many fishing boats in distress on the waters of Port Phillip and Hobson's Bays and in one instance the ketch "Helen Moore", being disabled in heavy weather in Hobson's Bay, was towed to her berth at Ferguson Street Pier, Williamstown.

On 15th February 1944 the Port Fairy Division (unmobilized) received an urgent call from R.A.A.F. to make a search for a service aircraft which was down at or near Lady Julia Percy Island. Within 10 minutes of receipt of call the first boat had put to sea and 25 minutes later the second boat had slipped her moorings. The search was made in very heavy seas, but darkness compelled a return to Port, at midnight without trace of air personnel, although wreckage had been found. Early the following morning the boats returned to the Island. Members of the crew landed and, after a thorough search, returned with a wing tip.

On 10th April, 1944, one of the boats attached to Port Albert Division (unmobilized) was fishing in Bass Straits - 1 mile S.E. of Winter Cove on Deal Island and the long lines (shark fishing lines) fouled a heavy object. Eventually the line was cleared and when hauled inboard, a cord and earphone were found entangled in the line. R.A.A.F. Headquarters recognized the equipment as being from a service aircraft.

On 25th April, 1944, Lakes Entrance Division - (unmobilized) was called out to search for a service aircraft which had crashed at sea. Despite the heavy seas running, they cleared the Bar and eventually located a rubber dinghy, much wreckage and indications of oil. They recovered certain portions of the aircraft, but it was evident that the machine had blown to pieces just prior to, or on, contact with the water and there was evidence that the crew had perished.

On 30th April, 1944, a member of Port Albert Division (unmobilized) found a bundle containing a mattress, navy jumper (with name of E.A. Grant on it). boots and oilskin, between the Kent and Hogan groups of Islands. These were handed over to local police authorities.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

Two Skippers and five ratings (mobilized) have been selected for S.R.D. duties in forward areas.

H.M.A.Ss. "Alexander Thomson", "Westwind" and "Nepean" have been regularly employed at Port Phillip Heads as examination ships.

Unmobilized boats and personnel have maintained duty patrols for 990 hours during the past 3 months and the Maintenance Division of the Melbourne Flotilla (unmobilized) has been engaged on engine repairs and overhauls and general maintenance of unmobilized boats as well as bringing engines and hulls up to fire security standard. This work involved approximately 1800 man hours.

The Melbourne Flotilla (unmobilized) has co-operated with the Army in clearing craft from the danger area in Port Phillip Bay during anti-aircraft practice shoots.

7. NAVAL RESERVE DEPOT, WILLIAMSTOWN.

(a) PERSONNEL. During the last quarter the drafting total of 614 ratings has passed through this Depot, i.e. 292 drafted in and 322 drafted out. During this period Sick Bay has had a total of 32 in patients and 101 cases on the attending list.

(b) FUELLING. Over the last three months a total of 16 ships have been worked by the Fuelling Installations, i.e. 13 ships received oil and 3 ships discharged fuel to us. The total quantity of fuel issued was 14859 tons whilst the amount received was 9351 tons. At present the fuel stocks remaining are 65 per cent of our full capacity.

(c) SHIPS AND BOATS REQUISITIONED, DE-COMMISSIONED, ETC.

DATE	NAME	SERVICE
22.3.1944	S.L. 1	Provisioned by N.R.D.(W) prior to proceeding North.
25.3.1944	"MOMBAH"	Taken over by the Navy.
12.4.1944	"BAY FERRY"	Requisitioned and shipped to a Northern Port.
APRIL, 1944	"TUBER"	De-commissioned and placed in reserve.
	"ALANCIA"	
	"LADY MADGE"	
	"PARVAGER"	Handed over to H.M.A.S."WHANGPU"

(d) N.A.P. BASE. A very large amount of repair and engine overhauling has been carried out in the Repair Shops at the Naval Boatshed, Williamstown. Further machinery is arriving all the time for this purpose although the Department of Interior is very tardy in positioning and connecting up the machines to the electric power. The required alterations to the existing buildings have now been finished.

(e) CLOTHING STORE. A total of £966.9.6 has been received for clothing taken up on repayment through the Clothing Store.

(f) ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS. The plans for the Recreation Hut donated to N.R.D.(W) by the Victorian Racing Club have been proposed, but so far construction has not yet been commenced.

8. DECORATIONS:

During the quarter acting Lieutenant Commander C.C. Good, R.A.N.R.(S). was presented with the Reserve Officers' Decoration whilst Paymaster Lieutenant Commander I.S. McMillan R.A.N.R. was presented with the Volunteer Officers' Decoration.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

9. W.R.A.N.S.:

On 27th March, the W.R.A.N.S. new quarters were completed and occupied. Cook and Stewardess ratings together with all W.R.A.N.S. who are living away from home are permanently victualled in.

The W.R.A.N.'S Canteen was opened on the 28th April. The canteen, providing many amenities has already proved to be most popular.

In accordance with the Victory Loan programme, 50 W.R.A.N.S. under Third Officer L. Bradford took part in the Womens Service's March held on Friday, 14th April.

10. WORKS, BUILDINGS, ETC.:

(a) REFITTING BERTH.- Work in connection with the construction of the refitting berth at Nos. 1, 2, and 3 South Wharf is proceeding and it is anticipated that the actual transfer from No. 18 Victoria dock will be effected before the end of June 1944. The work is being carried out by the Melbourne Harbour Trust Commissioners.

(b) W.R.A.N.S. ACCOMMODATION.- W.R.A.N.S. accommodation has been completed and is now furnished and accupied. The accommodation consists of sleeping quarters, recreation rooms, sick bay, offices, etc.

(c) REQUISITIONED VESSELS.- Coal Hulk "Mombah", owned by the Melbourne Harbour Trust has been requisitioned for Naval purposes.

11. GUNNERY DEPARTMENT:

ORDNANCE BASE STAFF. The Ordnance Base Staff has been employed making good defects in D.E.M.S. and have completely serviced armament of four A.M.S. vessels during the quarter. Two H.M.A. vessels have been completely reconstructed and armed. i.e.:- H.M.A.S."Orara"and H.M.A.S."Whangpu", H.M.A.S. "Bunbury" and H.M.A.S. "Lithgow" have been re-armed with 4" Mark 19 Guns.

OPTICAL ORDNANCE WORKSHOP. - The Optical Ordnance Workshop has been fully employed cleaning, repairing and adjusting gun sighting telescopes and binoculars in D.E.M.S. and all optical instruments, clocks and stop watches in vessels refitting have been completely overhauled and made serviceable. In addition stocks of binoculars and clocks held by Naval Stores, Port Melbourne in an unserviceable condition have been made serviceable.

GUNNERY INSTRUCTIONAL CENTRE.- 540 officers and men of D.E.M.S., R.A.N. Allied Navies and Australian Military Forces have been given instruction in Anti Aircraft Gunnery.

ORDNANCE BASE STAFF WORKSHOP.- Ordnance Base Staff Workshop has been fitted out and machine tools installed and is now working efficiently. This will enable outstanding modifications to ordnance within the capacity of the Base Staff to be carried out in the future.

12. DEGAUSSING WORK:

During the months of February, March and April, 1944, the degaussing equipment of 169 Merchant and 3 War Ships were tested electrically and the equipment of 51 Merchant and 3 War Ships were taken in hand for essential repairs.

The degaussing of D.E.M.S. "River Loddon" was taken in hand by H.M.A. Dockyard, Williamstown.

Monthly reports on L.L. and S.A. Minesweeping Equipment in accordance with C.C.N.O. 81 have been made on H.M.A.S. "Allenwood".

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

Compass adjustments for D/G effects were carried out on 4 H.M.A. and 23 D.E.M. Ships as required.

13. PERSONNEL:

Average numbers borne in H.M.A.S. "Lonsdale" and tenders were 1713. A total of 3335 ratings were checked in and out of "Lonsdale" during the quarter.

14. PROVOST CORPS:

The Naval Patrol commenced operations in Melbourne on 3rd March, 1944.

The following routine has been adopted temporarily until such time as quarters become available in the City and sleeping accommodation supplied for the Duty Group:-

1st Group - Duty - commences at 0900 and operates until 2330.
2nd Group - Stand By - commences at 1000 and operates until 2030.
3rd Group - Stands off from 2330 for 35½ hours.

A Utility Truck is being used for patrolling City and Suburbs and will be fitted with 2-way Radio Set when available.

To date Patrol has interrogated 553 ratings for various offences.

15. NAVAL STORE DEPOT AND H.M.A. VICTUALLING YARD.

The Naval Store Depot and H.M.A. Victualling Yard, Melbourne were placed under the general control of the Naval Officer-in-Charge, Port Melbourne, as from 6th March, 1944.

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

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

30/3

2026/7/460

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY.

MINUTE PAPER.

3644.

SECRET

SUBJECT: Hmas "LONSDALE" - WAR DIARY - THREE MONTHS ENDED 31/1/44

RECEIVED 24 MAR 1944 D.O.N.R.M.

~~SNB~~ 28/2

~~2NM~~ 2/3

~~6/3 3NM~~ 9-3-44

~~DOD~~ 17/3.

~~DR(N)~~ 17/3

~~DSC~~ 18/3

~~DOP~~ 20/3

~~SO(WBxS)~~ 22/3.

~~DNS~~ 22/3

~~DS(N)~~ 14/3

DOTM 24/3 44

~~DNS~~ 27/3

DNRM 28/3

~~HAS~~ 30/3

~~NA2NM~~ 30/3

~~PCLO (NHRO)~~

31/3B

30/3

WRAMS

Business 4 years now

Man 28/3

SO(an)

5/4

~~NHRO~~

~~A/NHRO~~

File

D.N.R.M. 28.MAR.1944 DEPT OF NAVY

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL
RCDIG1074122

14

TELEPHONE No.

RECEIVED 10 FEB 1944 NAVY CONFIDENTIAL RECORDS

Commonwealth of Australia

Department of The Navy.

DEPT. OF NAVY St 0301 2026/7/460 SECRET
HN 10/4/42

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE
No. C.2201/1

NAVAL STAFF OFFICE
Port Melbourne.

4th February, 1944.

SECRET

The Secretary,
Naval Board, MELBOURNE.

Ack'd By Form A.S. 1030
Init. 9-2-44
HN 10/2/44

WAR DIARY : H.M.A.S. "LONSDALE".

FOR THREE MONTHS ENDED 31st JANUARY, 1944.

The following summary of events for H.M.A.S. "LONSDALE", Local Defence Vessels and establishments under my command covering the three months ended 31st January, 1944 is submitted for the consideration of the Naval Board in accordance with Navy Office Letter 035037 dated 8th November, 1940.

2. OPERATIONS:

H.M.A.S. "ALLENWOOD": Sweeping area S.C.F.6 returning Williamstown to coal when necessary. Cleaned boilers at Williamstown from December 22nd to 27th.

H.M.A.S. "DURRAWEEN": Sweeping areas S.C.F.6 and S.C.F.18. Detailed for special patrol in S.C.F. 18 over Christmas holiday period. Cleaned boilers at Williamstown from 18th to 22nd December, 1943.

H.M.A.S. "KOROWA": Sweeping S.C.F. 6, S.C.F. 18 and Cape Otway areas. Employed as target ship for ships undergoing sea trials after refit. Cleaned boilers from 5th to 10th January, 1944.

CO. AND OC. CONVOYS: Between Newcastle, Sydney and Melbourne at regular intervals. Last OC Convoy arrived Newcastle 11th December, 1943 and last OC Convoy arrived Melbourne 8th December, 1943; thereafter these convoys were discontinued.

H.M.A.S. "ORARA": Returned from sweeps of S.C.F. 18, de-stored, and entered H.M.A. Dock, Williamstown 0935L 29th November for refit and conversion to A/S instructional vessel. Expected to undock approximately 2nd February and make ready for sea.

H.M.A.S. "BINGERA": Operating on training cruises between Flinders Naval Depot and Port Phillip Bay for Officers' Training Classes.

H.M.A.S. "BUNBURY": Arrived Melbourne 5th January, shifted from Nelson Pier, Williamstown to 18 Victoria Dock and commenced refit. Entered Duke & Orr's dry dock 27th January to complete refit.

H.D.M.L. 1323: Arrived Melbourne 27th January from Port Adelaide to store and proceed to Sydney, after having A/S gear installed.

H.M.A.S. "ADELAIDE": Arrived Port Phillip Bay 12th January, 1944 for fuel. Departed 13th January to rendezvous with "Mooltan" off Hobart and escort to Fremantle.

H.M.A.S. "DOOMBA": Employed on escort work with OC and CO Convoys. Boiler cleaned 24th to 29th November, 1943. Departed for Sydney 13th December, 1943, when convoys were discontinued.

H.M.A.S. "WAGGA": Arrived Port Phillip 17th December, 1943 for refit. Ship fumigated 31st December, and entered H.M. Graving Dock, Williamstown, 10th January, undocking 13th January and securing alongside Dockyard Pier, Williamstown to continue refit. Completed sea trials in Port Phillip Bay 19th and 20th January and departed Port Phillip Bay for Sydney p.m. 20th January.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

H.M.A.S. "MILDURA": Arrived Port Phillip Bay 14th November, 1943 and after de-storing, etc. entered H.M.A. Drydock, Williamstown 22nd November, undocking 27th November and securing alongside Dockyard Pier to continue refit. Underwent sea trials 18th and 20th December, and departed Port Phillip 20th December,

H.M.A.S. "BENDIGO": Arrived Melbourne 24th November and relieved "DOOMBA" of convoy escort duties to allow boiler clean. Commenced refit at Victoria Dock and underwent Basin trials. Sailed for Sydney 13th January after satisfactory trials in Port Phillip Bay.

U.S.N.T. "HERMITAGE": Arrived Port Phillip Bay 16th January, 1944 for fuel and stores and sailed for Bora Bora on the 20th January.

U.S.N. STORESHIP "OCTANS": Arrived Port Phillip 5th January, loaded refrigerated cargo at Victoria Dock and sailed for Sydney 7th January.

H.M.S. "PATROLLER": Aircraft Carrier. Arrived Port Phillip 24th December, and commenced alteration of Officers' quarters to accommodate Lethbridge Mission. Embarked draft for "N" Class Pool, swung compasses in Port Phillip and departed for Fremantle 28th December. Dummy dive bombings arranged with R.A.A.F. as exercises, after departure Port Phillip Heads.

H.M.A.S. "INVERELL": Arrived Port Phillip 11th November, 1943, de-stored, etc., fumigated ship, and secured Dockyard Pier to commence refit. Entered H.M.A. Dry Dock, Williamstown 22nd November, undocking 27th November and completing refit alongside Nelson Pier, Williamstown. Sea trial 11th December but defects developed, necessitating Dockyard assistance and trials resumed 13th December. Distiller still unsatisfactory but defects made good by dockyard labour, and ship departed Port Phillip 16th December.

H.M.A.S. "BUNGAREE": Arrived Port Phillip 4th November and proceeded to Geelong to load mines. Departed Port Phillip 9th November for Sydney. Returned Melbourne 8th December, and entered Duke & Orr's dry dock10th December, undocking 11th December and proceeding to Geelong. Departed Port Phillip 13th December for Sydney.

H.M.A.S. "KAPUNDA": Undergoing refit at Melbourne. Entered Duke & Orr's dry dock 1st November, undocking 4th November, fumigated ship 12th November, carried out basin trials 30th November. Underwent sea trials 1st and 2nd December and departed Port Phillip p.m. 2nd December, 1943.

H.M.A. TUG "TOORONGA": Completed towing of hulk "RONA" to Cairns and returned to Melbourne, calling at Sydney on passage, arriving here 5th December. Entered Hobson Bay Company Floating Dock 7th December, undocking 9th December. Ship paid off 11th December and returned to Melbourne Steamship Company.

U.S.N. STORESHIP "CALAMARES": Arrived Port Phillip 7th January, loaded refrigerated cargo at Victoria Dock and departed Port Phillip for Sydney 11th January, 1944.

U.S.S. "GANYMEDE": Having loaded U.S. Naval Stores, departed Port Phillip 1st November for Sydney, then onward passage north.

H.D.M.L. 1321: Arrived Port Phillip from Hobart on 16th November, 1943. Entered Hobson Bay Company Floating Dock on 23rd November, undocking 6th December. Compass adjusted, trials completed and ship departed Port Phillip for Sydney 16th December, 1943; A/S gear installed during docking period.

H.M.A.S. "WHANGPU": Arrived Port Phillip 9th November from Fremantle, de-fuelled, de-stored, etc. at Williamstown. Commenced conversion at Port Melbourne 22nd December to repair ship.

3. ENGINEERING:

Work carried out on ships for the three months ending 31st January, 1944 was as follows:

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

1. Ships fitted with LA, HA/LA, Bofors, U.P. Pillar Box, Oerlikon stiffenings totalled 14.

2. Ships on which repairs, repositioning armament, making lockers and repairs to P/V equipment, etc. totalled 19.

3. One in No. ship taken in hand to convert to Mobile Workshop.

4. Testing of P/Vs and replacements of running gear, testing F.A.M. and U.P. Pillar Box circuits, etc. by D.E.M.S. staff totalled 73.

5. Maintenance of H.M.A. ships attached to this port and visiting warships totalled 20.

6. Refits of H.M.A. Ships: 3 by Base Staff and 3 by H.M.A. Dockyard.

7. N.A.P. refit and maintenance have not been shown in above figures.

4. <u>DEFENSIVE EQUIPMENT OF MERCHANT SHIPS</u>:

During the three months ending 31st January, 1944, all D.E.M. Ships that entered the Port of Melbourne were boarded and inspected by D.E.M.S. Staff. The vessels comprised:

BRITISH REGISTER		66
COMMONWEALTH	"	138
U.S.A.	"	20
NORWEGIAN	"	19
GREEK	"	6
DUTCH	"	4
PANAMANIAN	"	4
YUGO-SLAV.	"	2
		259

<u>VESSELS DEFENSIVELY EQUIPPED</u>:

Commonwealth equipped with	4" Q.F. Mk. XIX	1
" " "	40-mm. Bofors	2
" " "	20-mm. Oerlikon	1
" " "	2" UP Rocket Projector	1

<u>British & Allied Registry</u>:

Equipped with	4" Q.F. Mk. XIX Gun	1
" "	12 pdr. HA/LA	1
" "	20-mm. Oerlikon Guns	3
" "	.303 Machine Gun	1
" "	2" UP Rocket Projector (PB)	1

<u>PARAVANES</u>:

Paravanes completely overhauled and repaired	32
Vessels refitted wires, etc.	26

<u>ELECTRICAL DEFECTS</u>:

Telephones, F.A.Ms. and Pillar Box Circuits in D.E.M.S.	32

<u>CHANGES IN SHIPS OF D.E.M.S. PERSONNEL</u>: 209

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5. RADAR:

During the quarter the following ships were fitted with Radar or existing Radar overhauled by Port Radar Officer's Staff:

FITTED WITH RADAR AND TESTED AT SEA:

H.M.A.S. "KAPUNDA"
" "INVERELL"
" "MILDURA"
" "BENDIGO"
" "WAGGA"

RADAR INSPECTED AND OVERHAULED:

H.M.A.S. "ADELAIDE"
" "BUNGAREE"
H.N.M.S. "TROMP"
F.F.S. "LE TRIOMPHANT"
D.E.M.S. "TROJAN STAR"
" "DURHAM"
" "RIMUTAKA"
H.M.T. "MOOLTAN"
H.N.M.T. "NIEUW AMSTERDAM"

6. VICTORIAN SQUADRON NAVAL AUXILIARY PATROL:

An additional draft of 13 personnel, including a Senior Mate, who is qualified to take command of a vessel, has been sent North and a further draft of six to crew another vessel is now being prepared and will leave shortly. Including these two latest drafts, more than 50% of the total mobilized complement of the Victorian Squadron are now serving in Northern and Operational Areas.

During the period under review, the Port Albert Division was called upon to furnish a vessel and crew at short notice to make contact with an A.S.R. vessel outside the Port Albert Bar during the Silent Hours. This work was successfully accomplished and both vessels returned and secured at the Port Albert Wharf before dawn.

The two Channel Patrol Boats H.M.A.S. "Westwind" and H.M.A.S. "Nepean", with the exception of one rating in the engineroom, are now being commanded and crewed by N.A.P. personnel, and these boats, as well as H.M.A.S. "Alexander Thompson" P.T. 623, have been employed as examination service vessels at Port Phillip Heads, in addition to general Channel Patrol duties.

Unmobilized personnel have maintained duty patrols for 1000 hours during the three months under review.

7. NAVAL RESERVE DEPOT, WILLIAMSTOWN:

(a) Inspection of Central Store: In December, 1943, Paymaster Captain R. C. Negus walked around Central Store, Clothing and Victualling Store, Minesweeping Store and Petrol Store with a view to possible increase in the Supply Branch. As a result of his inspection, the Supply Branch complement was later amended and increased.

(b) Personnel: During the last quarter the drafting total of 1762 ratings has passed through the Depot, i.e. 882 drafted in and 880 drafted out. Sick Bay has again been busy with the treatment of cases both from other Depots and other Ships. In all, there have been 56 in-patients and 259 on the attending list.

(c) Fuelling: Over the last three months the total number of 21 ships has been worked by the fuelling tanks, i.e. 14 ships received oil and seven ships discharged fuel to us. The total quantity of oil issued was 2764 tons, whilst the amount received was 17,462 tons. Apart from trouble through over-greasing of the bearings, the new centrifugal pumps have worked satisfactorily. The painting of the Newport oil tanks has been completed, and these tanks are now almost filled to capacity with fuel.

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(d) Boats Requisitioned: The following boats were requisitioned:

DATE	NAME	SERVICE
20/11/1943	Dinghy	R.A.A.F.
21/1/1944	Bay Ferry	Naval

(e) Boatshed, Jetty and N.A.P. Base: A large amount of maintenance and repair work is being carried out in the repair shops at Naval Boatshed, Williamstown. Machinery is arriving all the time, which the Department of the Interior is slowing positioning and at the same time carrying out the required alterations to the existing buildings.

8. PORT WAR SIGNAL STATION:

The new Port War Signal Station located at Fort Pearce, Point Nepean, commenced to function on 10th November, 1943. Increased efficiency is anticipated when the new 18" projector approved to be supplied is installed.

9. INSPECTIONS:

On 3rd November, 1943, the Naval Officer-in-Charge, accompanied by his staff, made an inspection of H.M.A.S. "DOOMBA", both at anchor and under weigh. During the quarter, the Naval Officer-in-Charge paid an official visit of inspection to the War Signal Station, Cape Otway.

10. DECORATIONS:

On 29th November, 1943 before the assembled officers of his staff and H.M.A. Ships "Lonsdale" and "Doomba", the Naval Officer-in-Charge, on behalf of His Excellency, the Governor-General, presented the Volunteer Officers' Decoration to Lieutenant-Commanders W. J. Twist and J. R. Killick, R.A.N.R., the First Lieutenants of H.M.A. Ships "Lonsdale" and "Doomba" respectively.

11. COMMANDER MIERS, V.C., D.S.O., R.N.:

On Tuesday, 4th January, 1944, Commander Miers, V.C., D.S.O., R.N. paid a visit to H.M.A.S. "Lonsdale", and gave a talk on his war experiences in submarines to the assembled Ship's Company.

12. MR. ARTHUR BAXTER, COMMISSIONED INSTRUCTOR, R.A.N.:

After ten years' service in H.M.A.S. "Lonsdale", being the last part of 44 years' service in the Royal Australian Navy, Mr. Arthur Baxter, Commissioned Instructor, R.A.N., retired on 31st January, 1944.

13. W.R.A.N.S.:

During the quarter the W.R.A.N.S. gave indication of becoming increasingly qualified to take over a number of duties hitherto performed by male personnel.

W.R.A.N.S. Officers have replaced male Officers in Confidential Books, Operations and Cypher duties, and two Officers have been replaced with W.R.A.N.S. Officers in the office of the Naval Control Service, Melbourne. At Port War Signal Station, Point Nepean, the W.R.A.N.S. Visual Signallers have taken over from the male ratings and are

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manning the station 24 hours of the day.

Writers, Supply Assistants and Transport Drivers have been replaced by W.R.A.N.S. In the Signal Distributing Office, where about 50% of the staff are W.R.A.N.S., two of the Coders have passed their professional tests for Leading Rate, and when rated will be competent to take charge of a watch. In the Dome Teacher of the Gunnery Instruction Centre the Cinema is being operated by two W.R.A.NS. W.R.A.N.S. Signallers, Coders, Writers and Transport Drivers were appropriated during the quarter from "Lonsdale" to Townsville and Cairns.

The buildings for W.R.A.N.S. accommodation were progressed to the final stages.

14. WIRELESS MECHANICS:

Up to 31st January, 1944, 82 ratings have passed through the Radio Mechanics' Course at Melbourne Technical College. Of these, 48 have been recommended for further study in Radar, and 27 for shore W/T mechanics; seven ratings failed to complete the course.

15. BUILDINGS, WORKS, ETC.:

Refitting Base at No. 18 Victoria Dock is being transferred to Nos. 1, 2 and 3 South Wharf, and all machinery supplied for No. 18 Victoria Dock and Appleton Dock will be transferred to the new site. The work of transferring has not yet commenced, but it is anticipated that a start will be made early in the ensuing quarter.

16. DREDGE "D. YORK SYME":

The dredge "D. York Syme" was requisitioned from the Melbourne Harbour Trust Commissioners on 30th December, 1943, docked in dry dock H.M.A. Dockyard, Williamstown, surveyed and hull under water scraped and painted. The dredge was handed over to the U.S. Corps of Engineers on 8th January, 1944.

17. GUNNERY INSTRUCTIONAL CENTRE, ORDNANCE BASE STAFF, PORT MELBOURNE:

During the quarter the following H.M.A. Ships have been taken in hand for refits: H.M.A.S. "WAGGA", "MILDURA", "KAPUNDA", "BENDIGO", "INVERELL", "BUNBURY", "ORARA" and "WHANGPU".

Defects have been made good and Gun Trials satisfactorily carried out with 4" Mark XIX guns mounted on H.M.A.S. "MILDURA", "KAPUNDA", "BENDIGO" and "INVERELL". H.M.A.S. "ORARA" and "BUNBURY" have been re-armed with 4" Mark XIX guns, but refits have not yet been completed. H.M.A.S. "WHANGPU" is being converted and armed with three Oerlikons, one Bofors and two Twin 0.5 Colt Browning Guns.

Maintenance of D.E.M.S. armament has been carried out by Base Ordnance Staff. 636 Merchant Navy and R.A.N. Officers and ratings have been trained in A.A. Gunnery at the Gunnery Instructional Centre, Port Melbourne.

18. DEGAUSSING WORK:

During the quarter the degaussing equipment of 174 Merchant and two War Ships was tested electrically, and the equipment of 30 Merchant and two War Ships taken in hand for essential repairs.

The modification to degaussing of H.M.A.S. "KAPUNDA" was completed and H.M.A.S. "BENDIGO" was fitted with Permanent Degaussing. The re-degaussing of D.E.M.S. "GEORGE M. EMBIRICOS" and "KOOYONG"

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was completed, and the re-degaussing of "MICHAEL L. EMBIRICOS", "CORINDA" and "IDOMENEUS" was progressed.

Essential repairs to H.M.A.S. "WAGGA", MILDURA" and "INVERELL" were carried out by H.M.A. Dockyard, Williamstown.

Monthly reports on L.L. and S.A. Minesweeping Equipment, in accordance with C.C.N.O. 81/43, have been made on the tests on H.M.A.S. "ALLENWOOD", "KAPUNDA" and "INVERELL".

Compass adjustments for D/G effects were carried out on H.M. and D.E.M.Ships as required.

19. PERSONNEL:

Average numbers borne in H.M.A.S. "LONSDALE" and tenders were 1818 (inclusive of 289 W.R.A.N.S.).

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

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- 8 NOV 1943
NAVY CONFIDENTIAL RECORDS

C2201/1

SECRET

DEPT. OF NAVY
2026/7/460
SECRET

Naval Staff Office,
PORT MELBOURNE S.C.7.
5th November, 1943.

S E C R E T.

MEMORANDUM.

The Secretary, Naval Board,
Navy Office, MELBOURNE.

WAR DIARY - H.M.A.S."LONSDALE".

FOR THREE MONTHS ENDED 31st OCTOBER, 1943.

The following summary of events for H.M.A.S."LONSDALE", Local Defence Vessels and establishments under my command covering the three months ended 31st October, 1943 is submitted for the consideration of the Naval Board in accordance with Navy Office Letter 035037 dated 8th November, 1940.

2. OPERATIONS.

HMAS "STAWELL" Commissioned at 0800K Saturday 7th August and after essential trials sailed for Sydney at 0630Z 30th August.

HMAS "TOORONGA". Because of Labour dispute, Melbourne Steamship Co's. tug Tooronga was requisitioned and at 0800L on 26th October commissioned as a HMA Ship, and manned with Naval personnel HMAS "Tooronga" departed Port Phillip at 0255Z/28th October with the hulk Rona in tow bound for Newcastle.

NAPV's "BUNDARRA","WARROO","HURRICA" & "DAWN" were arranged in cradles and despatched by S.T.O. for onward passage to Northern ports. "Bundarra" was shipped in S.S. "AGE" on 22-10-43 and "Warroo", "Hurrica" and "Dawn" in S.S. "Horarata on 28-10-43. "Bundarra" was issued with spare parts and tools.

HMS "NIZAM". Arrived Port Melbourne 0015Z 18th August for refit. Entered HM Drydock W'town on 1st September and undocked 27th Sept. Refit was completed, gunnery trials undertaken, A/S and Radar equipment checked and ship prepared for sea. "Nizam" departed Port Phillip for Fremantle 23rd October.

HNMC "TROMP". Entered Port Phillip 26-9-43 for refit and on 27th September entered drydock at Williamstown undocking 13th October. After gunnery trials in Port Phillip "Tromp" departed here 0851Z 25th October.

HMAS "ADELAIDE". Completed refit and trials and departed Port Phillip for Fremantle 1245Z on 11th September.

HMAS "KAPUNDA". Arrived Port Phillip 2143Z 19th October and is now undergoing refit at 18 Victoria Dock and will enter Duke and Orr's dry dock on 1st November.

HMAS "DOOMBA". Was relieved by HMAS "Ballarat" and entered dry dock August 16th and undocked 19th August - proceeded to 18 Victoria Dock to complete refit. Carried out Basin trials, F/C and A.A. Firings at floating target in conjunction with compass adjustments. Refit was completed and"Doomba" sailed 6th September escorting OC 123 to rendezvous and CO 123 to Port Phillip. Ship cleaned boilers and carried out tilt test from 23rd October to AM 29th October and resumed escort duties.

HMAS "BINGERA". After OTC training cruises "Bingera" entered HM Drydock Williamstown October 25th. Undocking on 27th, proceeded for exercises under way to Corio Bay. F/C firing to take place on 4th November.

SECRET.

HMAS "DURRAWEEN". August 6th - Boiler cleaning and minor repairs effected until 10th. Sweeping continued, interrupted by necessary repairs till 27th September when annual refitting took place. At Williamstown until 26th October, when departed to continue sweeps.

HMAS "BUNGAREE". Arrived Port Melbourne 6-9-43, loaded mines at Geelong, and carried out test lay satisfactorily. Departed for Sydney then north in OC 126, 17-9-43.

HMAS "ALLENWOOD". Entered dock 9-8-43 and undocked 12-8-43. Carried out gun trials 23-8-43. Recovery exercises with mines 30-8-43 and further F/C shoot 16-10-43 then sweeping continued.

HMAS "KOROWA". Executed sweeps in Cape Otway and Wilsons Promontory areas. Towed targets for "Nizam's" shoot then resumed sweeping activities.

HMAS "ORARA". Sweeping in Wilsons Promontory area - boiler cleaned 18-9-43 and resumed sweeps. Assisted RAAF crash party to reach crashed plane on Deal Island on 23rd September. Lieut.Cdr. W.J.C.Webb took over command from Lieut.Cdr. Fyffe - 9-10-43. Sweeping in Wilsons Promontory area.

WRECKS AND GROUNDINGS: Non-Naval Tug "Keera" and Tug "Greyhound" in tow and Tug "Bucra" in company en route to Sydney encountered heavy weather off Cape Woolamai early AM. At 0230L "Greyhound" was in difficulties and later foundered. At 0620L "Bucra" capsized. "Keera" picked up survivors and after search for missing crew proceeded to return to Port Phillip. One member of "Greyhound's" crew and one of two stowaways missing.

P.V. CONVOYS: Between 20-9-43 and 11-10-43 four special convoys sailed from Port Phillip bound north carrying American troops. H.M.A. Ships "Warramunga", "Helm", "Stuart", and "Arunta" provided the necessary extra escort.

CO and OC CONVOYS: Continuous bi-weekly convoys between Melbourne, Sydney, Newcastle.

3. ENGINEERING

Work carried out on ships for the three months ending 31st October,1943, was as follows:-

(i) Ships fitted with LA, HA/LA, Bofors, UP Pillar Box, Oerlikon Stiffenings, FAM's and PAC "J's"., totalled 11.

(ii) Ships on which repairs, repositioning armament, making lockers, alterations FAM's and repairs P/V equipment etc., totalled 47.

(iii) 1 in No. ship taken in hand to fit out as horse transport, 1 in No. Coal Hulk fitted out in preparation for towing.

(iv) Testing of P/Vs and replacements of running gear, testing FAM & UP circuits etc. by D.E.M.S. Staff, totalled 72.

(v) Maintenance of H.M.A.Ships attached to this port and visiting Warships, totalled 16.

(vi) Refits of H.M.A.Ships, totalled 7.

(vii) N.A.P. refit and maintenance have not been shown in above figures.

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4. DEFENSIVE EQUIPMENT OF MERCHANT SHIPS

During the three months ending 31st October,1943, all D.E.M.Ships that entered the Port of Melbourne were boarded and inspected by D.E.M.S. Staff.

The vessels comprised:-

BRITISH Register		53.
COMMONWEALTH	"	146
U.S.A.	"	43
NORWEGIAN	"	24
GREEK	"	12
DUTCH	"	2
PANAMANIAN	"	3.
		£ 283.

VESSELS DEFENSIVELY EQUIPPED.

Commonwealth equipped with 12 Pdr. HA/LA	1.
" " " 40-mm. Bofors	2.
" " " Light Machine Guns	1.
Overseas and Allied vessels equipped with 2" U.P. Pillar Box	2.
Overseas and Commonwealth equipped with FAMS.	2.

One Allied vessel is being converted into a Hospital Ship, all Guns, A.A. devices and explosives being landed and sent to Maribyrnong.

PARAVANES.

Paravanes completely overhauled and repaired	28.
Vessels refitted wires, etc.	34.

DEPTH CHARGES.

D.C. Pistols from D.E.M.S. tested	5.

ELECTRICAL DEFECTS.

Telephones, F.A.Ms and Pillar Box Circuits in D.E.M.S.	23.
Overhaul of Gyro Compasses	3.

CHANGES IN SHIPS OF D.E.M.S. PERSONNEL. 69

5. RADAR.

A Port Radar Officer and staff were established for the Port of Melbourne in "Lonsdale" on 19th September. The following ships and sets were attended:-

HNMS "TROMP". - preliminary work commenced to house Radar gear.
HMAS "NIZAM". - fitted with type 285 Set.
HMAS "BALLARAT". - " " " A272, A286P and A.B.K.
HMAS "STUART". " " " A.B.K.
HMAS "ARUNTA". - equipment tested and repaired.
DEMS "HORARATA". repaired type 271 Set.
DEMS "DURHAM". overhauled type 271 Set.

Depots at 18 Victoria Dock and Williamstown Dockyard are in process of erection in order that Radar equipment may be repaired.
A two day course for Executive Officers on the use of Radar Equipment was given by Lieutenant Palfrey R.A.N.V.R. on 19th and 20th October, during the course of which instructional films were shown.
As it is probable that several A.M.S. vessels will be fitted with Radar equipment each month in Melbourne it is proposed to hold further instructional courses at frequent intervals.

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6. VICTORIAN SQUADRON NAVAL AUXILIARY PATROL.

The Naval Auxiliary Patrol has maintained Patrols in the River and in Port Phillip Harbour for over 3,500 hours. These Patrols have been maintained partly by the commissioned full-time vessels, 7 in number manned by Mobilised personnel and partly by non commissioned, privately owned, vessels manned by attested but unmobilised personnel.

The membership of the Naval Auxiliary Patrol now numbers:-

MOBILISED	Officers 6 , Men 57.		
UNMOBILISED.	Melbourne Flotilla:-		340
	Outports		145
Vessels			
	Melbourne Flotilla		56
	Outports		58

The activities of the Patrol, other than those of the Melbourne Flotilla and Geelong Division, have yielded good results. On October 6th, the lighthouse keeper at Cape Nelson reported that a ship's lifeboat was adrift one mile South of the Cape of that name and within 18 minutes of the report, the Area Skipper had an N.A.P. vessel out and on her way to investigate. The ship's boat, though awash, was brought into Portland and handed over tb the Harbour Master and the Receiver of Wrecks notified.

The finding of wreckage from the "Greyhound" was reported from San Remo and Newhaven on October 27th and the organisation of these Outports has given a satisfactory solution to the problem of keeping vessels available for immediate service all along the coast.

7. NAVAL RESERVE DEPOT, WILLIAMSTOWN.

(a) Inspection.

The Depot, N.R.D.(W), Boatsheds, 14 Motor Boats, Motor Patrol Boats and Commissioned N.A.P.Vessels, the Minesweeping Store, Reid Street, and the Oil Tanks at Williamstown and Newport were inspected by the Naval Officer-in-Charge, on 3rd and 13th August,1943.

(b) Personnel.

Over the last three months the drafting total of 1297 ratings has passed through the Depot, i.e. 699 drafted in and 598 drafted out. Sick Bay has been busy in treating cases both from other Depots and Ships. In all there have been 65 "in" patients and 300 on the attending list.

(c) Fuelling.

During this quarter the Newport Oil Fuel Installation was used for the first time. Considerable trouble was experienced at the beginning due to over heating of the new centrifugal pumps. These troubles have now been overcome and the pumps appear to be working satisfactorily. The total number of ships fuelled was 47 and 41,702 tons of oil received, 29,174 tons being issued. The pipe lines to Nelson and Gellibrand Piers have been completed and are working satisfactorily. The Oil Tanks at Newport are in the course of being painted and camouflaged by Depot staff.

(d) Refit.

H.M.A.S."DURRAWEEN" completed her annual refit at the Melbourne Steamship Co., Yards and resumed duties on 24th September.

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(e) Ships Requisitioned.

The following ships have been requisitioned:-

DATE	NAME	SERVICE
12/8/43	"RONA" (Hulk)	Naval
16/8/43	S.T."WYBIA".	Rejected
13/9/43	S.S."KILLARA".	Army
13/9/43	S.T."KEERA"	Army
8/10/43	Dinghy	R.A.A.F.
23/10/43	S.T."TOORONGA".	Navy.

A tender "Plover" was also handed over to the Army on 10th August. The S.S."KILLARA" was returned by the Army and then handed back to her owners on 27th October,1943.

(f) N.A.P.

N.A.P. ratings have now manned the two coastal patrol boats, H.M.A.S. "Westwind" and H.M.A.S."Nepean", under the command of R.A.N.V.R. Officers. The N.A.P.Workshops at the Boatsheds are progressing satisfactorily and much machinery has been delivered.

(g) Boatshed and Jetty.

The Naval jetty has been completed in all respects with the exception of the fire hydrant, which is now being installed. Electric light and power has been connected and the petrol bowser is temporarily placed in the middle of the jetty until further supply of piping enables it to be finally situated at the far end. The Department of Interior has completed a preliminary survey of the projected new slipway.

8. GUNNERY INSTRUCTIONAL CENTRE. ORDNANCE BASE STAFF PORT MELBOURNE.

(a) During the last quarter the Gunnery Instructional Centre, Port Melbourne has been completed, with the exception of the Naval Firing Range at Fort Gellibrand, Victoria.

The Dome Teacher, Instructional Cinema Hall and Tracer Range are in working order and have been used for anti-aircraft instruction of the Navy, D.E.M.S. personnel and the Australian A.A.Regiments, stationed in Victoria. Total number of officers and ratings trained with this equipment during the last three months totals 986.

The following H.M.A.Ships have been refitted and carried out gunnery exercised in the Port Phillip Bay:-
H.M.A.S. ADELAIDE, H.M.A.S. STAWELL, H.M.A.S NIZAM, H.M.A.S.STEWART, H.M.A.S. BINGERA, NETHERLANDS CRUISER TROMP, NETHERLANDS CORVETTE ABRAHAM CRIJNSSEN, FREE FRENCH DESTROYER LE TRIOMPHANT, H.M.A.S.BALLARAT and all ships under the administrative command of the Naval Officer-in-Charge, Port Melbourne have carried out monthly, full calibre firings at surface targets.

(b) Re-Armament. H.M.A.S ALLENWOOD, H.M.A.S. DURRAWEEN, H.M.A.S.KOROWA and H.M.A.S.DOOMBA have been re-armed and additional armament has been added.

H.M.A.S.ALLENWOOD re-armed with 12 pdr. 12-cwt. H.A./L.A. Mark 9
H.M.A.S."KOROWA" re-armed with 12 pdr. 12-cwt. H.A./L.A. Mark 9
H.M.A.S.DURRAWEEN re-armed with 12-pdr. 12-cwt. H.A./L.A. Mark 9 in addition one 20 m.m. Oerlikon.
H.M.A.S.DOOMBA One 20 M.m. Oerlikon in addition to existing armament of one 4" Mark 5 Q.F. and one Oerlikon.

Ordnance Base Staff have been fully employed with the maintenance of D.E.M.S. armaments and maintenance of H.M.A.Ships, under N.O.I.C.'s command and ships refitting at the Port of Melbourne.

Equipment for Ordnance Base Staff Workshop is coming forward and it is hoped that this workshop will be in operation during the coming quarter.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

9 DEGAUSSING WORK

During the months of August, September and October 1943, the degaussing equipment of 164 Merchant Ships were Tested electrically and the equipment of 23 were taken in hand for essential repairs. D.E.M.S."TEMERAIRE" was redegaussed, the re-degaussing of "GEORGE M.EMBIRICOS" commenced, and the re-degaussing of the "IDOMENEUS" progressed.

H.M.A.S."BALLARAT" was completely redegaussed, the modification to degaussing of H.M.A.S."KAPUNDA" was commenced, and H.M.A.S."ORARA" was repaired.

The completion of permanent L.V.Equipment in H.M.A.S."ADELAIDE" and essential repairs to H.M.N.S."TROMP" and H.M.A.S."NIZAM" were carried out by H.M.A.Dockyard, Williamstown.

Work on Melbourne D.G.Range was discontinued.

Two monthly inspections, vide Navy Office Letter 052266 of 11th August,1943, have been made of L.L.Mine Sweeping Gear.

S.A.Gear, type C.Mark 11 has been fitted to H.M.A.S."ADLEAIDE" and H.M.A.S."NIZAM" by H.M.A.Dockyard Williamstown.

10 The Naval Officer-in-Charge paid an official visit during the quarter to inspect Naval and Defence Establishments and works in Sydney.

11. PORT WAR SIGNAL STATION.

The work of transferring the Port War Signal Station to the new location at Fort Pearce was progressed to the final stages. The change over is scheduled for 10th November. The modified examination service was put into operation during the quarter, and satisfactory initial operation was reported.

12. VISIT OF Mrs. ELEANOR ROOSEVELT.

On 6th September, Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, wife of the President of the United States of America, paid a visit to the Depot, Port Melbourne, and after being welcomed by the Naval Officer-in-Charge, and the Commanding Officer, H.M.A.S."LONSDALE", inspected a large muster of W.R.A.N.S. Officers and ratings. Before leaving, Mrs. Roosevelt addressed the personnel present, and expressed satisfaction with what she had seen.

13 W.R.A.N.S.

On 28th August, a W.R.A.N.S. 3rd Officer was appointed for Executive Duties. Later in the quarter, another W.R.A.N.S. Officer was appointed for Cypher duties, and a W.R.A.N.S. 3rd Officer already borne assumed the duties of Assistant to Staff Officer (Operations) thereby releasing the male officer assisting for duties in a forward area.
The buildings for W.R.A.N.S. accommodation were progressed during the quarter.

14 WIRELESS MECHANICS.

Courses of instruction in Wireless Mechanics and Radar were continued during the quarter at the Melbourne Technical College in connection with the training of Naval W/T Mechanics. To date, 240 ratings have taken the courses.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

15 PERSONNEL.

Average numbers borne in H.M.A.S."LONSDALE" and tenders were 1605 (inclusive of 275 W.R.A.N.S.).

A/COMMANDER R.A.N.

Naval Officer-in-Charge, Port Melbourne.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

TELEPHONE No.
MX. 5241

Commonwealth of Australia

Department of The Navy

St 6317

DEPT. OF NAVY
2026. 7. 460
SECRET

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE
No. C.88/2201/1

ACK. BY A.S. 1330Y
24 AUG 1943
INIT. mbf

SECRET

Naval Staff Office,
Port Melbourne. S.C.7.
18th August, 1943.

SECRET.

MEMORANDUM.

The Secretary, Naval Board,
Navy Office, MELBOURNE.

WAR DIARY - H.M.A.S. "LONSDALE"

FOR THREE MONTHS ENDED 31st JULY, 1943.

Submitted for the consideration of the Naval Board, with reference to N.O.L. 035037 dated 8th November, 1940, the following summary of events for H.M.A.S. "Lonsdale" and Local Defence Vessels for the three months ended 31st July, 1943.

2. COMMISSIONING OF VESSELS, &c.

(a) H.M.A.S. "Benalla" (Commissioned on 28th April) after working-up, sailed for Sydney on 18th May, 1943.

(b) H.M.A.S. "Stawell" continued building at Williamstown (and was commissioned on 7th August, 1943)

(c) Motor Boat "Warroo" was commissioned as full-time N.A.P. boat on 15th May, 1943.

(d) Six in number various craft were requisitioned for Army, ten in number for R.A.A.F., and three in number for U.S.A. authorities.

3. NEW WORKS, &c.

(a) Work was commenced on the erection at Port Melbourne of -

(i) W.R.A.N.S. Quarters.
(ii) "Lonsdale" Base Accounts and Tenders Office.

(b) The work of erecting buildings and installing ancillary equipment in connection with the establishment of a Gunnery Instructional Centre was progressed, both at Port Melbourne and Williamstown Range.

(c) The erection of the Indicator Loop Station Building at Point Franklin was completed and is ready for use.

(d) The erection of buildings for the Harbour Defence Motor Launch Base at Queenscliff was completed and the buildings were furnished ready for use.

(e) The N.A.P. (unmobilised personnel) Repair Base at Queen's Bridge, Melbourne functioned satisfactorily.

(f) At the Williamstown Naval Repair Base, and Boatshed at Slipway, the Jetty extension was completed, except for water and electric power extensions of supply both to the jetty and Repair Base. Some work remains also in the installation of plant and machinery.

4. REPAIRS AND REFITS DURING THE QUARTER.

H.N.M.S. "Abraham Crijnssen" completed refit and was transferred to the R.N.N. on 5th May, 1943.

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AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

H.M.A.S. "Quiberon" completed refit.

H.M.A.S. "Adelaide" arrived from Fremantle on 1st June and commenced refit, which is still continuing.

F.F.S. "Le Triomphant" arrived on 22nd May, 1943 for repairs, which were completed on 27th June. After a short working-up programme, she sailed for Sydney on 5th July, 1943.

H.M.A.S. "Doomba" commenced refit on 9th June, 1943 (not yet completed).

H.M.A.S. "Korowa" was refitted between 21st June and 17th July and resumed normal sweeping operations on the latter date.

H.M.A.S. "Allenwood" commenced refit on 26th July, 1943 (not yet completed).

5. OPERATIONS.

(a) H.M.A.S. "Orara" carried out M/S Operations in S.C.F.18, and H.M.A. Ships "Durraween", "Allenwood" and "Korowa" in S.C.F.6. While H.M.A.S. "Orara" was boiler cleaning, "Allenwood" relieved her in S.C.F.18.
Monthly F/C. and S/C. Gunnery exercises were carried out.

(b) H.M.A.S. "Nepal" arrived from Sydney on 23rd May and, after carrying out gunnery exercises in Port Phillip Bay with H.M.A.S. "Quiberon", both vessels sailed in company for Fremantle on 26th May, 1943.

(c) H.M.A.S. "Doomba" acted as escort for O.C. and C.O. Convoys to and from the rendezvous position until she commenced refit on 9th June, 1943, on which date H.N.M.S. "Abraham Crijnssen" took over the work of escorting these convoys.

(d) H.M.A.S. "Bungaree" embarked further outfits and mine units.

(e) H.M.S. "Alsey" arrived on 16th April and later sailed in convoy for Sydney on 10th May, 1943.

(f) Various U.S.N. Transports and auxiliaries called during the period under review.

(g) H.M.S. "Atreus" arrived at Melbourne on 9th April. After repairs to D/G. installation, she loaded mines at Geelong on 6th May and sailed for Fremantle on 9th May, escorted by R.N.N. "Van Galen". On 23rd July she returned to Melbourne, embarked further mine units at Geelong on 26th July, and sailed for Fremantle, unescorted, on 29th July, 1943.

6. EXERCISES, GUNNERY TRIALS, &C.

(a) H.M.A.S. "Manoora" carried out amphibious exercises in Port Phillip Bay during May and departed for Sydney on 2nd June.

(b) H.M.A.S. "Benalla" carried out Gunnery exercises and A/S Trials and departed for Sydney on 18th May, 1943.

7. There were no collisions of an appreciable nature, nor any noteworthy navigational changes during the period.

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AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

8. ENGINEERING.

The following is a summary of engineering work effected at the Base during the quarter under review :-

(a) Ships fitted with L.A., H.A./L.A., Bofors, U.P. Pillar box and Oerlikon stiffenings totalled 26.

(b) Ships on which repairs, repositioning armament, making lockers or making good deficient equipment totalled 42.

(c) One in No. Ship was completely fitted with P/V. protection equipment, while the testing of P/Vs. and replacements of running gear was carried out by Depot Staff on 41 Ships.

(d) One in No. Ship was fitted out as horse transport.

(e) In addition to this work, the maintenance of attached ships, visiting warships and refits totalled 41 Ships.

(f) H.D.M.L. and N.A.P. refit and maintenance have not been shown in above figures.

9. DEGAUSSING WORK.

During the months of May, June and July, 1943, the degaussing equipment of 138 Merchant Ships and 4 Warships were tested electrically and the equipment of 26 of the Merchant Ships were taken in hand for essential repairs.

The work of completely re-degaussing H.M.S. "Atreus" with permanent H.V. resistance controlled equipment was carried out, and the fitting of permanent L.V. equipment in H.M.A.S. "Adelaide" was commenced by H.M.A. Dockyard, Williamstown.

The construction of the urgently required D.G. Open Range was progressed, and the tubes driven in the main channel to take U.S.N. type Detector Units.

Repairs to retrieved and damaged D.G. cable progressed.

10. DEFENSIVE EQUIPMENT OF MERCHANT SHIPS.

During the three months ending 31st July, 1943, all D.E.M. Ships that entered the Port of Melbourne were boarded and inspected by D.E.M.S. Staff.

The vessels comprised :-

British	210
Allied	52
Neutral	5
	267

ORDNANCE.

Six and three monthly periodical examinations of Low and High Angle Ordnance and minor repairs to A/A guns and devices were carried out in 60 vessels.

PARAVANES.

Paravanes completely overhauled	-	52 vessels.
Vessels services with P.V. equipment Tow and Recovery Wire refitted and Span bars straightened.	-	72 vessels.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

DEPTH CHARGES.

D.C. Pistols from D.E.M.S. and H.M.A. Ships overhauled and tested - 168 vessels

CONSTRUCTIONAL.

Welding, repairs, alterations and additions to defence equipment carried out in - 130 ships.

VESSELS DEFENSIVELY EQUIPPED.

Overseas, Commonwealth, and Allied vessels equipped with 12 Pdr. H.A./L.A.	-	7
Commonwealth vessels equipped with 40-m.m. Bofors	-	4
Overseas, Commonwealth and Allied Vessels equipped with Heavy & Light Machine Guns	-	7
Overseas and Allied Vessels equipped with 2" U.P. Rockets (Pillar Box Type)	-	3

11. PERSONNEL.

A further W.R.A.N. Officer for cyphering duties was appointed during the quarter.

Average numbers borne in H.M.A.S. "Lonsdale" and tenders were 1680.

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

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

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TELEPHONE No.
MX. 5241

ACK. BY A.S. 1330Y
11 MAY 1943
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DEPT. OF NAVY
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SECRET

Commonwealth of Australia

Department of The Navy

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE
No. C.11/1/80

NAVAL STAFF OFFICE
PORT MELBOURNE. S.C.7.
7th May, 1943.

SECRET.
MEMORANDUM.

The Secretary, Naval Board,
Navy Office, MELBOURNE.

WAR DIARY - H.M.A.S. "LONSDALE" FOR THREE MONTHS ENDED 30TH APRIL, 1943.

Submitted for the consideration of the Naval Board, with reference to N.O.L. 035037 of the 8th November, 1940, the following summary of events for H.M.A.S. "Lonsdale" and Local Defence Vessels for the three months ended 30th April, 1943 :-

COMMISSIONING OF VESSELS, &c.

H.M.A.S. "Shepparton" commissioned on 1st February, 1943 and, after preliminary trials, sailed for Sydney on 15th February, 1943.

H.M.A.S. "Benalla" commissioned on 28th April, 1943.

The Motor Launch "Hurrica" commissioned on 6th February, 1943 for full-time N.A.P. duties.

One Small Craft (launch) requisitioned for use by Navy for N.A.P. duties.

Four Small Craft requisitioned for Army.

Two Small Craft requisitioned for Air Force.

Two Small Craft requisitioned for U.S. Forces.

NEW WORKS, &c.

The erection of the buildings for a Dome Teacher and ancillary equipment was commenced in Esplanade East, near New Depot, "Lonsdale"

The erection of the Indicator Loop Station Building at Point Franklin progressed.

The erection of a Patrol Boat Base at Williamstown progressed.

The building of a Naval Refitting Berth and Deperming Berth at Appleton Dock site progressed.

Work on Demagnetising Range in Port Phillip progressed.

Provision of Boom nets in Corio Bay progressed but is now temporarily in abeyance, pending Naval Board consideration of Geelong Harbour Trust's attitude.

REPAIRS & REFITS DURING THE QUARTER.

H.M.A.S. "Warrnambool" (completed refit).

H.M.A.S. "Quiberon" (not yet complete).

H.N.M.S. "Abraham Crijnssen" (not yet complete).

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

RCDIG1074122

REPAIRS & REFITS DURING THE QUARTER (contd.)

H.N.M.S. "Tjerk Hiddes"

F.F.S. "Le Triomphant"

H.M.A.S. "Nepean"

H.M.A.S. "Adelaide"

H.M.A.S. "Colac"

H.M.S. "Atreus"

OPERATIONS

Groups 54 and 58 Auxiliary M/S Vessels carried out operations in S.C.F.6 and S.C.F.18. Monthly full-calibre and sub-calibre gunnery exercises were carried out.

H.M.A.S. "Abraham Crijnssen" arrived on Station to be taken over by the Dutch Navy. (taken over 5th May 1943)

H.M.A.S. "Warrnambool" went off Station, departing for Sydney on 5th March, 1943.

H.M.A.S. "Quiberon" arrived from overseas for refit.

H.M.A.S. "Beryl II" went off Station, departing for Adelaide on 1st February, 1943.

H.M.S. "Springdale" went off Station, departing for Newcastle on 2nd April, 1943.

H.M.A.Ss."Nepean" and "Westwind" continued A/S Patrol of Hobson's Bay.

H.M.A.S. "Doomba" acted as escort for O.C. and C.O. Convoys to and from Wilson's Promontory.

Various U.S.N. Transports and ships,escorted by U.S. Destroyers and other Allied Warships, called at this Port during the quarter.

H.T. "Nieuw Amsterdam" arrived in February, escorted by H.M.A.S. "Adelaide" and H.N.M. Ships "Heemskerck" and "Tjerk Hiddes", with members of the 9th Division, A.I.F.

H.M.A.S. "Bungaree" embarked further outfits of mine units.

EXERCISES, GUNNERY TRIALS, &c.

H.M.A.S. "Manoora" and U.S.N.T. "Henry T. Allen" carried out exercises in combined operations in Port Phillip (off Dromana).

H.M.A.S. "Manoora" carried out Searchlight and Flare Tests in conjunction with the R.A.A.F. in Port Phillip during March.

During March, night exercises were carried out successfully by the N.A.P. in conjunction with Military Forces, to provide a means of passing orders by V/S from Eastern Shore of Port Phillip to Western Shore of Port Phillip.

A.R.P. Exercises were carried out in conjunction with other services and civil authorities during the quarter.

Merchant Navy personnel were instructed in Depth Charge and Gunnery Drill.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

COLLISIONS

At 1419Z/3rd March, S.S. "Koonda" collided with the Greek Ship "George M. Embiricos", which was lying at anchor 1½ cables N.E. of Gellibrand Lighthouse, Hobson's Bay.

"George M. Embiricos" was holed forward of the bridge and the vessel eventually settled on the bottom. It was later raised and repairs were undertaken.

On Saturday night, 27th April, in Port Phillip, S.S. "Iron Monarch", whilst entering, collided with S.S. "Empire Strength", which was anchored. Both vessels were burning full navigation lights.

"Iron Monarch" was damaged above the water line, "Empire Strength" flooded in holds Nos. 1 and 2, and required docking.

NAVIGATIONAL.

"A" Class lights in Port Phillip were restored to normal brilliancy.

PERSONNEL.

A new departure in the matter of the disposition of N.A.P. personnel took place when drafting orders were received for 15 N.A.P. ratings to proceed to Northern Operational Areas.

W.R.A.N.S. - The gradual replacement of male officers and ratings is proceeding. Two W.R.A.N. Officers commenced duty during the quarter in C.B. and Cyphering duties, respectively.

Average numbers borne in H.M.A.S. "Lonsdale" and tenders = 1800.

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

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

ACK. BY A.S. 1 SY
23 FEB A.M.

TELEPHONE No. MX.5241

Commonwealth of Australia

Department of Defence

DEPT. OF NAVY
2026. 7. 460
SECRET

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE
No. C.11/1/80 SECRET

NAVAL STAFF OFFICE
Port Melbourne, S.C.7.
18th February, 1943.

Secretary,
Naval Board, MELBOURNE.

WAR DIARY - H.M.A.S."LONSDALE" - NOVEMBER 1942-JANUARY 1943.

Submitted for the consideration of the Naval Board, with reference to N.O.L.035037 dated 8th November, 1940, the following summary of Events for H.M.A.S. "LONSDALE" and Local Defence Vessels for 3 months ended 31st January 1943:

COMMISSIONING OF VESSELS, ETC.

H.M.A.S. "MARRAWAH" was paid off on 22.12.42 to be taken over by the U.S. Army.

H.M.A.S. "UKI" was paid off on 24.12.42 to be taken over by the U.S. Army.

"SHEPPARTON" continued fitting out.

"BENALLA" was launched at Williamstown in mid. November.

6 small craft (launches) were requisitioned for use by Navy on Port Phillip Patrol work and for Degaussing work.

6 small craft were requisitioned for the Army.

2 small craft were requisitioned for U.S. Authorities.

H.M.A.S. "HORSHAM" commissioned on 18th November 1942, and after completion of working up programme in Port Phillip, departed for Adelaide on 21st December, 1942.

NEW WORKS ETC.

Williamstown Dockyard was taken over by R.A.N. on 28th October 1942. This dockyard is now operating under Naval Control with Engineer Commander E.C. Mackey, R.A.N., as General Manager.

Newport Naval Oil Fuel Installation Depot opened 28.1.1943.

A Deperming Berth was established at Appleton Dock. H.M.S. "SPRINGDALE" is located here for deperming work. Work on the De-Magnetising Range in Port Phillip progressed.

Harbour Defence motor launch base at Queenscliff was taken over on 1st February 1943.

Work on construction of loops at Port Phillip Heads, progressed.

R/T Sets were installed and put into use for local P/L Communications.

P.W.S.S. Port Wave/W.T. Communications signalling was taken over by and is now operated from "LONSDALE" Depot.

Patrol Boat Bases at Williamstown progressed.

A site has been acquired opposite "LONSDALE" Depot in Rouse Street for Gunnery Training (Dome Teacher etc.), part of which is proposed to be used for W.R.A.N.S. Barracks.

Naval refitting berth at Appleton Dock progressed.

REFITS DURING QUARTER.

H.M.A.S. "BOMBO"
H.M.A.S. "ORARA"
H.M.A.S. "BINGERA"
H.M.A.S. "BERYL II"
H.M.A.S. "WARRNAMBOOL" (In-complete)

OPERATIONS.

Groups 54 and 58, Auxiliary Minesweeping Vessels carried out operations in S.C.F.6 and S.C.F.18. Quarterly and monthly full calibre and sub calibre gunnery exercises were carried out.

H.M.A.S. "ALLENWOOD" arrived on Station from Sydney on 20.1.43 for duty with Base L.D.Vs.

H.M.A.S. "BOMBO" departed for Hobart, Tasmania, on 28.12.42.

H.M.A.S. "NEPEAN" and "WESTWIND" continued A/S Patrols in Hobsons Bay.

H.M.A.S. "DOOMBA" acted as escort for all O/C and C.O.Convoys to and from Wilson's Promontory.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

TELEPHONE No.

MX.5241

ACK. BY A.S. 1330 / 3 DEC A.M. INIT.

DEPT. OF NAVY St 6301
2026. 7. 460
SECRET

Commonwealth of Australia

Department of The Navy.

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE

No. C11/1/80

SECRET

NAVAL STAFF OFFICE

Port Melbourne, S.C.7.
1st December, 1942.

Secretary,
Naval Board, MELBOURNE.

WAR DIARY - H.M.A.S."LONSDALE" - QUARTER AUGUST-OCTOBER 1942.

Submitted herewith for the information of the Naval Board, in compliance with instructions contained in Navy Office Secret Memorandum No. 035037 dated 8th November, 1940, is War Diary for H.M.A.S. "LONSDALE" for the abovementioned quarter.

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

H.M.S. "SPRINGDALE" arrived from Adelaide early in December for deperming duties at Appleton Dock.

H.M.A.S. "PIRIE" arrived from Adelaide, carried out gunnery, Depth Charge, M/S Trials and working up programmes and departed for Sydney on 4.12.42.

F.F.S. "LE TRIOMPHANT" was on Station during this quarter, but departed for Sydney on 25.1.1943.

Various U.S.N. Transports escorted by U.S. Destroyers, landed U.S. Marines for leave early in January 1943.

Various U.S. Supply Ships, and Repair Ships, visited the Port, and U.S. Submarines "SARGO" and "SCHNAPPER" passed through this area during the quarter.

H.M.A.S. "BUNGAREE" paid two visits to Mine Depot, Geelong.

H.M.A.S. "ADELAIDE" and H.M.S."ACHILLES" paid brief visits on escort duties.

EXERCISES, GUNNERY TRIALS, ETC.

N.A.P. Manoeuvres were carried out during quarter including minespotting exercises in conjunction with R.A.A.F. ~~The results disclosed deficiencies which have been since rectified. In future spotting posts will each have a particular sector to operate~~.

"TROMP" and "LE TRIOMPHANT" both carried out gunnery trials.

Merchant Navy personnel were instructed in Depth Charge and Gunnery drill.

W.R.A.N.S.

Recruiting of W.R.A.N.S. for Base War Organisation was continued and recruiting of W.R.A.N.S. for Flinders Naval Depot was commenced on a full scale.

A W.R.A.N.S. Officers' Training Class, consisting of representatives from each State, was despatched to Flinders Naval Depot for training and selection.

NAVAL AUXILIARY PATROL.

As at 31st January, 1943, the number of vessels in use and personnel serving with Victorian Squadron, is as follows:-

N.A.P. Vessels on part time patrols .. 97
N.A.P. Personnel on part time duty .. 360

N.A.P. vessels on full time patrol = 5
N.A.P. personnel on full time duty = 51

INTELLIGENCE

A German Mine from an old field was discovered, washed ashore to the N.W. of Cape Schanck Lighthouse on 18th January 1943. It was subsequently rendered safe by an R.M.S. party from Flinders Naval Depot.

Average numbers borne in "LONSDALE" and tenders for Quarter = 1760.

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

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

SECRET

WAR DIARY - H.M.A.S. "LONSDALE".

QUARTER - AUGUST-OCTOBER, 1942.

LOCAL DEFENCE VESSELS.

Groups 54 and 58 A.M.S. Vessels carried out sweeping operations in S.C.F.6, S.C.F.18 and Cape Otway area. Quarterly and monthly full calibre and sub calibre gunnery exercises were carried out. Reports by Port Gunnery Officer of periodic survey of armaments showed that guns were kept in very good condition.

BOILER CLEANING AND REFITS.

H.M.A.S.	"DOOMBA"	-	Cleaned boilers	16.10.42
"	"ORARA"	-	" "	10.10.42
"	"DURRAWEEN"	-	" "	and refitted 7.10.42
"	"MARRAWAH"	-	" "	24. 9.42
"	"BERYL II"	-	" "	17. 9.42
"	"UKI"	-	" "	18. 8.42 and 19.10.42
"	"KOROWA"	-	" "	11. 8.42 and 7.10.42

AUXILIARY MINESWEEPING VESSELS.

H.M.A.S. "ECHUCA" - commissioned 6th September 1942, and after completion of working up programme in Port Phillip Bay was inspected by Naval Officer-in-Charge, Port Melbourne, and departed for Sydney on 24th September,

H.M.A.S. "MARY CAM" - commissioned 5th October 1942, and after working up in Port Phillip Bay and inspection by Naval Officer-in-Charge departed for Adelaide on 21st October 1942.

H.M.A.S. "HORSHAM" - fitting out at Williamstown.

H.M.A.S. "SHEPPARTON" - Launched 15.8.1942.

MOTOR PATROL BOATS.

H.M.A.Ships "NEPEAN" and "WESTWIND" continued to function during the quarter as Anti-Submarine Patrols in Hobsons Bay.

MAJOR WAR VESSELS.

H.M.A.S. "DOOMBA" - Continued during the quarter to act as escort and anti-submarine screen for all O.C. and C.O. convoys to and from Wilsons Promontory.

H.M.A.S. "ORARA" - Operated as Minesweeping vessel under operational orders of Naval Officer-in-Charge, Port Melbourne. Commenced refitting at 18 Victoria Dock on 11th October 1942, estimated time of completion of refit being 26th November 1942.

H.M.A.S. "BUNGAREE" - Arrived Geelong on 10th October 1942 to embark nine units, and sailed with O.C.34 on 10th October, 1942, detaching later and proceeding to New Zealand.

ALLIED VESSELS.

Dutch - H.M.A.S. "ABRAHAM CRIJNSSEN" commissioned 20th September 1942.

"TROMP" - Visited Port Melbourne 11th October 1942, and carried out limbering up Gunnery exercises in Port Phillip Bay. Departed for Sydney on 14th October 1942.

American - U.S.S. "GOLD STAR" underwent refit at Victoria Dock commencing 3rd July 1942, and departed Melbourne for Sydney with convoy O.C.38 on 24th October 1942. Later returned to Melbourne with convoy C.O.42 on 6th November 1942, en route to Fremantle.

U.S.S. Submarines "SAURY", "SWORDFISH", "SEA DRAGON" and "TROUT" passed Wilsons Promontory on undermentioned dates en route from Fremantle to Sydney -

"TROUT" ...	-	20th October 1942
"SAURY" and "SWORDFISH"	-	23rd " "
"SEA DRAGON" ...	-	28th " "

CONVOYS.

Convoys were sailed twice weekly throughout the quarter in

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

accordance with Naval Board signal 0615Z/21st July. H.M.A.S. "DOOMBA" acted as escort and anti-submarine screen to all O.C. and C.O. convoys to and from Wilsons Promontory.

NAVAL AUXILIARY PATROL.

Routine Patrols carried out during the quarter in Port Melbourne, Williamstown, Victoria Dock and Newport Areas, and at Geelong while H.M.A.S. "BUNGAREE" was present embarking mine units.

RENDERING MINES SAFE.

A R.M.S. party under Lieutenant (S) Rousson of Flinders Naval Depot, was despatched in H.M.A.S. "MARRAWAH" to render safe a mine which had been washed ashore at Clark Island on 26th October 1942. Operation was successfully completed, mine having been rendered safe.

S.S. "ORMISTON" sighted a floating mine 80 miles south of Gabo Island on 10th September 1942. Machine gun fire was employed, but results were uncertain.

SALVAGE OPERATIONS.

On 5th October 1942, vessel s.s. "MAROSA", while sailing in convoy O.C.32 grounded in Lat. 38°54' S. longitude 146°11'E, owing to poor visibility. H.M.A.Ships "ORARA", "MARRAWAH" and "UKI" were despatched to assist Commonwealth Salvage Board in salvaging operations. The cargo was jettisoned and vessel finally refloated on 8th November 1942 and towed to Melbourne.

ENEMY ACTIVITIES.

No definite reports of any enemy activities in this area were received for period under review.

INTELLIGENCE.

The usual intelligence duties were carried out during the quarter.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

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Commonwealth of Australia

Department of The Navy.

DEPT. OF NAVY
2026/7/460
SECRET

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IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE
No. C11/1/80

SECRET

NAVAL STAFF OFFICE
Port Melbourne, S.C.7.
11th September, 1942.

HN 10/9/42

The Secretary,
Naval Board, MELBOURNE.

WAR DIARY - H.M.A.S. "LONSDALE" - QUARTER MAY-JULY 1942.

Submitted herewith for the information of the Naval Board, in compliance with instructions contained in Navy Office Secret Memorandum No. 035037 dated 8th November, 1942, is War Diary of H.M.A.S. "LONSDALE" for the abovementioned quarter.

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

Encl./

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AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

WAR DIARY - H.M.A.S. "LONSDALE".

QUARTER - MAY-JULY, 1942.

LOCAL DEFENCE VESSELS.

Groups 54 and 58 A.M.S. Vessels carried out sweeping operations in S.C.F.6, S.C.F.18, and in Cape Otway Area. Monthly sub-calibre and quarterly full calibre gunnery exercises were carried out satisfactorily. Periodic survey of armaments by Port Gunnery Officer showed that guns were kept in very good condition.

H.M.A.S. "Durraween" acted as transmitting ship for the calibration of H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA's" D.F. gear in Port Phillip on 20th May.

Boiler Cleaning and Refits.

"DURRAWEEN"	-	cleaned boilers	8th July.
"MARRAWAH"	-	" "	22nd May, 26th July.
"BERYL II"	-	" "	29th May and 28th July.
"UKI"	-	" "	23rd June.
"KOROWA".	-	" "	13th June

"KOROWA" refitted from 27th April to 24th May, also in Floating Dock 11th and 12th May.

AUSTRALIAN MINESWEEPING VESSELS.

H.M.A.S. "CASTLEMAINE"	commissioned 17th July, 1942.
H.M.A.S. "HORSHAM"	launched 23rd May, 1942.
H.M.A.S. "ECHUCA"	fitting out at Williamstown.

MOTOR PATROL BOATS.

H.M.A.S. "NEPEAN"	commissioned 31st July, 1942.
H.M.A.S. "WESTWIND"	commissioned 25th May, 1942.

Although their primary function is patrolling of Indicator Loop Port Phillip, these two craft are at present employed on A/S patrol in Hobsons Bay.

MAJOR WAR VESSELS.

H.M.A.S. "VENDETTA" - refitting at Victoria Dock.

H.M.A.S. "ORARA" - operated as M/S vessel under operational orders of D.N.O. Victoria.

H.M.A.S. "DOOMBA" - Left Welshpool on 9th January for Sydney for refit and conversion to Anti-Submarine vessel, returned to Melbourne on 26th July. Now engaged in convoy duties escorting convoys to and from Wilsons Promontory.

H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA" - Arrived Port Phillip on 19th May for working up programme. Departed for Sydney 27th May.

H.M.A.S. "BUNGAREE" - Arrived Geelong 6th May to embark mine units. Departed for Noumea on 8th May. Returned to Geelong 7th July for further mine units - departed 11th July with Convoy O.C.10.

H.M.A.S. "KANIMBLA" - Arrived Williamstown on 29th April, departed Port Phillip for Brisbane on 1st May, escorting "MAETSUYCKER". Prior to departure full calibre gunnery exercise was carried out in Port Phillip.

ALLIED VESSELS

Dutch - Submarine Depot Ship "JANSSENS" arrived Melbourne on 20th July, departed

American - 14 U.S. Destroyers and 1 Cruiser ("INDIANAPOLIS") visited Port Phillip during period under review, also Transport "WEST POINT" arrived 4th June, departed 9th June.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

ENEMY ACTIVITIES.

Activities of enemy submarines in Victorian waters are as follows:

3rd June - S.S. "BARWON" was attacked by submarine in position 38°05' South 150°14' East. The submarine fired a torpedo which self exploded but did no damage although a piece of the exploded torpedo struck No.4 hatch. The guns crew went to action stations but no sign of the submarine was seen.

4th June - S.S. "IRON CROWN" was torpedoed and sunk by submarine in position 38°15' South 149°45' East. The torpedo struck the ship amidships add she sank in 30 seconds.

30th July - A D/F report was received indicating the presence of an enemy submarine in Eastern Bass Strait - report graded B.2.

21st May - U.S.S. "PARROTT" in company with the Tender "BLACK HAWK" reported a possible submarine contact whilst in the vicinity of Wilsons Promontory, fourteen depth charges were dropped without any evidence of presence of submarine. As the ships were, at the time, in the vicinity of the wreck of s.s. "CAMBRIDGE" it was considered that the wreck was responsible for "PARROTT" making a "submarine contact".

CONVOYS.

Following attack by midget submarine on Sydney Harbour on 31st May, C.O. and O.C. Convoys were instituted in accordance with N.B. signals 1049Z/4th June and 0656Z/5th June. This organisation remained in force until 15th July when vessels were again permitted to proceed independently vide N.B. signal 1105Z/15th July. However with the sinking of the "GEORGE S. LIVANOS" and the "COAST FARMER" off the coast of N.S.W. on 20th and 21st July, respectively, the convoy system was again introduced in accordance with N.B. signal 0615Z/21st July.

NAVAL AUXILIARY PATROL.

Routine patrols were carried out nightly in Port Melbourne and Williamstown, Victoria Dock and Newport Area.

COASTWATCHING ORGANISATION.

In forwarding War Diary for H.M.A.S. "LONSDALE" for period February-April 1942, the fact that some members of the Coastwatching Organisation had been visited was overlooked. Members of the Coastwatching Organisation from Warrnambool to Nelson were visited late in April. These people showed commendable enthusiasm in their work which is increasing in importance, and appeared to have an efficient "Liaison" with such local bodies as V.A.O.C. and V.D.C.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

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Commonwealth of Australia

Department of The Navy.

2026/7/460

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE
No. C11/1/80

NAVAL STAFF OFFICE
Port Melbourne, S.C.7.
9th July, 1942.

The Secretary,
Naval Board, MELBOURNE.

WAR DIARY - H.M.A.S. "LONSDALE" - QUARTER FEBRUARY-APRIL 1942.

Submitted herewith for the information of the Naval Board, in compliance with instructions contained in Navy Office Secret Memorandum No. 035037 dated 8th November, 1940, is War Diary of H.M.A.S. "LONSDALE" for the abovementioned quarters.

A/Commander, R.A.N.
District Naval Officer, Victoria.

Encl./

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL
RCDIG1074122

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WAR DIARY - H.M.A.S. "LONSDALE".

QUARTER - FEBRUARY-APRIL 1942.

LOCAL DEFENCE VESSELS.

The following H.M.A. Minesweeping vessels operated in this period in the approaches to Port Phillip:- "DURRAWEEN", "MARRAWAH", "KOROWA", "BERYL II", "ORARA", "UKI". H.M.A.S. "DOOMBA" left Welshpool for Sydney on 9th January for a refit and comversion, to an A/S vessel. During her dry docking, completed 11th March, "UKI" was fitted for Minesweeping.

These vessels swept and patrolled channels used by numerous British, U.S., and other allied transports and supply ships, and ships of Royal and U.S. Navies.

While on passage down Port Phillip "ORARA" on 1st February rescued the crew of the Yacht "Bounty" which had capsized, and "BERYL II" (Lieutenant G. Beseler R.A.N.R. in command) towed a rudderless fishing boat with its crew of three to safety on 3rd April. On the 14th February an official of the A.B.C. took passage in "KOROWA" to gather material for a broadcast description of Minesweeping.

DOCKYARD.

A full programme of repairs, replacements, refits and construction was carried on at the Harbour Trust Dockyard and elsewhere. This quarter saw the launching of the "ECHUCA", and the fitting out of "CASTLEMAINE". Two A.M.S. vessels built at Whyalla carried out trials in Port Phillip, H.M.A.S. "WHYALLA" completing hers on 10th February, and H.M.A.S. "KALGOORLIE" arriving for this purpose on 13th April.

H.M.A.S. "VENDETTA" arrived in Port Phillip on 13th March, having been towed from Western Australia for refitting by s.s. "ISLANDER", escorted part of the way by H.M.S. "PING WO" and from Adelaide by H.M.A.S. "WHYALLA".

United Ship Services Pty. Ltd. fitted out s.s. "YUNNAN" and "POYANG" as Armament Store Issuing Ships, "YUNNAN" leaving Melbourne on 28th April and "POYANG" on 24th April. The K.M.P. Liner "CREMER" was also converted for service as a U.S. Transport on 14th February.

MAJOR WARSHIPS.

H.M.A.S. "ADELAIDE" and the A.M.Cs. "WESTRALIA", "KANIMBLA", "MANOORA", "MONOWAI", "ATHENE" and "ASCANIA" visited the port on various occasions escorting transports and supply ships.

H.M.A.S. "PERTH" left Melbourne for the last time after refuelling on the 5th February.

H.M.A.S. "BUNGAREE", Minelaying Vessel, left for Noumea, Auckland and Palu Passage on 3rd February, 6th March and 12th April respectively after taking on supplies of mines.

The Chinese river boat H.M.S. "PING WO" was paid off, in preparation for her recommissioning as a Fleet Store and Water Carrier.

Other interesting vessels entering Port Phillip on passage were some U.S. Submarines.

AIR CO-OPERATION.

The R.A.A.F. co-operated with various vessels in Anti-Submarine Patrols and High Angle Firing Practice.

U.S. NAVY.

Several U.S. Destroyers and Cruisers berthed at Williamstown and Port Melbourne and were visited by Intelligence and Confidential Book Officers. U.S. "HONOLULU" was supplied with charts on 28th February, after arriving here as escort for six transports.

The U.S. Transport "WEST POINT" arrived on the 2nd April carrying troops. Fleet Auxiliaries of the U.S. Navy were also in Port Phillip.

INTELLIGENCE.

This quarter was marked by a considerable lessening of industrial disputes in shipping circles.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

WAR DIARY - H.M.A.S. "LONSDALE".

QUARTER - NOVEMBER 1941 - JANUARY 1942.

LOCAL DEFENCE VESSELS

Daily sweeps were carried out in Searched Channels covering the entrance to Port Phillip and Wilson's Promontory area.
All ships returned to bases for coal, water, and periodical boiler cleaning as requisite.

H.M.A.SHIPS "DURRAWEEN" AND "KOROWA" were attached to 20th Minesweeping Flotilla from 8th November to 8th December to assist in clearing enemy minefields in Approaches to Hobart.

H.M.A.S. "WARRAWEE" departed Port Phillip on 14th November for Adelaide to join Group 63.

H.M.A.S. "PATERSON" departed Port Phillip on 12th November for Kembla; subsequent to her extensive hull repairs in July 1941 "PATERSON" maintained regular sweeping duties in S.C.F.18 until her departure.

H.M.A.S. "NARANI" departed Port Phillip on 10th November for Newcastle to join Group 77. Carried out only 7 days' sweeping whilst attached to Group 54.

H.M.A.S. "TOORIE" departed Port Phillip on 8th December for Adelaide to join Group 63.

H.M.A.S. "MARRAWAH" commissioned 9th December, and joined Group 54.

H.M.A.S. "UKI" arrived Port Phillip 23rd November from Newcastle to join Group 54, and commenced sweeping S.C.F.6 on 29th November 1941.

The above changes in disposition of these Auxiliary Minesweepers was effected in accordance with Navy Office letter 057026 of 5th November, 1941.
The only change not effected ~~in~~ as directed in the abovementioned letter is the arrival of "TONGKOL" due to
When the reallocation of Auxiliary M/S vessels has been completed the Group of these vessels under District Naval Officer, Victoria, command will be as follows:-

GROUP 54

H.M.A.S. "BERYL II"
H.M.A.S. "MARRAWAH"
H.M.A.S. "UKI"

GROUP 58

H.M.A.S. "DURRAWEEN"
H.M.A.S. "KOROWA"
H.M.A.S. "TONGKOL"

ENEMY MINES

A floating mine was sighted by s.s. "TIME" in position 038°21' S. 149°19'E on 29th January 1942.
2nd November 1941 a floating mine of unknown make but similar to British Mk.XIV was located off Barwon Heads and exploded by rifle fire from H.M.A.S. "TOORIE".
On 16th November 1941 S.S. "WEAR" reports sighting a mine in positio 38°27'S 142°22'E, but was unable to verify owing to weather conditions.
On 20th November 1941 a floating mine was sunk by rifle fire from S.S. "IRON RIG" in position 38°22'S 149°08' E.

H.M.A.S. "GEELONG" commissioned 16th January 1942 and sailed for Geelong the same day to attend a Reception given by the Mayor and Councillors of Geelong. On satisfactory completion of Minesweeping trials the vessel departed Port Phillip 23rd January 1942 for Sydney.

H.M.A.S. "STUART" is being refitted at No.18 Victoria Dock.

H.M.A.S. "WARRNAMBOOL" departed for Darwin via Sydney on 15th January 1942.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

H.M.A.S."BUNGAREE" arrived Port Phillip 12th November 1941 to embark 48 dummy mines for trial. Test lays to be carried in conjunction with H.M.A.S. "TOORIE". The vessel departed for Lizard Island 20th November from Port Phillip, and returned to Geelong 26th January 1942 to embark 420 mines for laying in New Caledonian waters. Full calibre firings were carried out in Port Phillip on 29th January. "BUNGAREE" departed 3rd February for Brisbane to be escorted to Noumea by H.M.S. "LEANDER"

H.M.A.S."BUNGAREE" arrived Melbourne 10th October. After Gunnery exercises in Port Phillip on 8th October proceeded to Geelong 9th October to embark 414 mines for laying. Departed Port Phillip for Elliot Island via Sydney 12th October.

WAR DIARY - H.M.A.S. "LONSDALE".

QUARTER - AUGUST-OCTOBER, 1941.

H.M.A.S. "MILDURA".arrived Williamstown 13th August to carry out working up exercises in Port Phillip under the orders of the District Naval Officer, Victoria, and then join the 20th Minesweeping Flotilla.

H.M.A.S. "STUART" arrived Melbourne 26th September for refit, and was placed under the orders of District Naval Officer, Victoria. Refit is being carried out at No.18 Victoria Dock.

H.M.A.S. "WARRNAMBOOL" arrived Port Phillip 10th October for working up exercises, and joined 20th Minesweeping Flotilla on 24th October, 1941.

H.M.A.S. "WOLLONGONG".arrived Williamstown 19th November for working up exercises in Port Phillip, and departed for Sydney via Wollongong on 4th December, 1941.

H.M.A.S. "TOOWOOMBA" arrived Williamstown 17th November for working up exercises in Port Phillip, and departed for Sydney on 1st December, 1941.

H.M.A.S. "MARYBOROUGH" arrived Port Phillip 4th August for working up exercises, and departed for Sydney 18th September, 1941.

H.M.A.S. "DELORAINE" was under orders to sail from Jervis Bay to Melbourne 10th December 1941, but this instruction was subsequently cancelled and vessel was directed to proceed to Sydney for working up exercises.

20th MINESWEEPING FLOTILLA comprising H.M.A. Ships "WARREGO", "SWAN", "LITHGOW", "MILDURA", "WARRNAMBOOL", departed for Sydney 3rd December 1941.

ENEMY MINES

On 15th August one mine was washed ashore on the beach at Peterborough. Although aged about 11 months, it was still serviceable. On 19th August one Type YX mine was washed ashore at Darby River, Wilson's Promontory. Although aged about 11 months, it was still serviceable.

INTELLIGENCE

The usual Intelligence duties were carried out, the most notable feature being the number of shipping hold-ups; these were mainly due to industrial disputes.

LOCAL DEFENCE VESSELS.

Daily sweeps were carried out in Searched Channels covering the entrance to Port Phillip and Wilson's Promontory.
All ships have returned to bases for coal, water, and periodical boiler cleaning as requisite.

H.M.A.S. "WARRAWEE" commissioned on 24th September, 1941.

H.M.A.S. "DURRAWEEN" was employed in exercises with H.M.A.S."MARYBOROUGH" in Port Phillip on 14th August, 1941.

H.M.A.S. "KOROWA" was employed in exercises with the following H.M.A. Ships - "LITHGOW" 10th to 11th July, "MILDURA" 29th August, and "BALLARAT" 18th September, 1941.

H.M.A.S. "TOORIE" was not employed on Anti-Submarine duties during this period, being employed in Mine recovery operations under the orders of H.M.A.S. "BUNGAREE".

H.M.A.S."PATERSON", which entered Dry Dock in July for repairs to her hull, sailed for S.C.F.18 to carry out sweeping duties. Regular sweeping was carried out in this area without further development of hull defects. "PATERSON" escorted motor boats "CYGNUS" and

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

"SAGITTAS" from Lakes Entrance to Port Melbourne on 17th-18th September. H.M.A.S. "PATERSON" also assisted H.M.A.S. "ORARA" in salvaging R.A.A.F. plane which crashed in the vicinity of Corner Inlet on 8th October, 1941.

H.M.A.S. "NARANI" arrived from Sydney on 1st October 1941 in a leaking condition necessitating dry docking and extensive hull repairs.

REFITS.

H.M.A.S. "DURRAWEEN" completed refit on 4th August, 1941.
H.M.A.S. "BERYL II" commenced refit on 15th August, and completed on 19th October, 1941.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

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IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE
No. C11/1/80

NAVAL STAFF OFFICE
Port Melbourne, S.C.7.
5th September, 1941.

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Secretary,
Naval Board, MELBOURNE.

WAR DIARY - H.M.A.S. "LONSDALE" - QUARTER MAY, 1941 TO JULY, 1941.

Submitted herewith for the information of the Naval Board in compliance with instructions contained in Navy Office Secret Memorandum No. 035037 dated 8th November, 1940, is War Diary of H.M.A.S. "LONSDALE" for quarter May - July, 1941.

Encl./

Lieut Commander, R.A.N.
for District Naval Officer, Victoria.

WAR DIARY - H.M.A.S. "LONSDALE".

QUARTER: MAY - JULY, 1941.

OPERATIONS OF 20th MINE SWEEPING FLOTILLA.

This Unit was utilised during the month of July in sweeping operations covering extensive areas in Bass Strait. For the major portion of the quarter they were outside the jurisdiction of District Naval Officer, Victoria.

H.M.A.S. "LITHGOW", a recently commissioned Corvette, was attached to this Flotilla during the quarter.

H.M.A.S. "DOOMBA" which is attached to the 20th Minesweeping Flotilla operated continuously in Bass Strait for the quarter, and on the 14th July reported the unusual movements of a Japanese vessel "CHIEF MARU". Messages received from this vessel stated that they were looking for a man overboard who was subsequently found to be onboard.

GROUP 54 AND GROUP 58.

Both of these Groups were utilised in searching sweeps made daily in searched channels covering entrance to Port Phillip and Wilson's Promontory area.

In June H.M.A.S. "PATERSON" commissioned and joined Group 54.

H.M.A.S. "BUNGAREE".

This Minelayer arrived in Port Phillip in June for working up programme. This was carried out successfully in conjunction with H.M.A.S. "TOORIE".

CORVETTES.

H.M.A.S. "BENDIGO", which completed working up programme departed for Sydney at the end of June.

H.M.A.S. "LITHGOW" which arrived Port Phillip on 30th June, completed working up programme in July and then joined the 20th Minesweeping Flotilla.

VESSELS FITTING OUT.

Motor Vessel "GERARD" completed fitting out programme in June and commissioned as H.M.A. Ship on 1st July, working up programme being then taken in hand.

S.S. "WARAWEE" which arrived in June is still fitting out at Williamstown and is expected to commission very shortly.

Motor Vessel "WANGANELLA" was taken in hand during June for fitting out as a Hospital Ship.

REFITS.

H.M.A.S. "DURRAWEEN" refitted during June.

H.M.A.S. "COOLEBAR" which arrived in Port Phillip in June refitted at Williamstown and sailed for Adelaide on 27th June.

ENEMY MINES.

During the quarter three mines were found on the beach off Cape Otway and were rendered safe by the Torpedo Officer from Flinders Naval Depot.

H.M.A.S. "KOROWA".

This ship which departed from Williamstown on 26th June to carry out searching sweeps covering the entrance to Port Phillip, grounded in the West Channel of Port Phillip at 0450K on same day. A tug was required to refloat this ship which was accomplished mid-day the same day. Apart from the condenser silting up no damage was sustained other than paint work on hull being scoured off by sand action.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

DUPLICATE

WAR DIARY - H.M.A.S. "LONSDALE".

QUARTER: MAY - JULY, 1941.

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During the quarter three mines were found on the beach off Cape Otway and were rendered safe by the Torpedo Officer from Flinders Naval Depot.

H.M.A.S. "KOROWA".

This ship which departed from Williamstown on 26th June to carry out searching sweeps covering the entrance to Port Phillip, grounded in the West Channel of Port Phillip at 0450K on same day. A tug was required to refloat this ship which was accomplished mid-day the same day. Apart from the condenser silting up no damage was sustained other than paint work on hull being scoured off by sand action.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

TELEPHONE No.

MX. 5241

St 6301

Commonwealth of Australia

Department of The Navy

ACK. BY A.S. 1941
15 MAY A.M.
INIT.

DEPT. OF NAVY
589/201/779
SECRET

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE

No. C.11/1/80

NAVAL STAFF OFFICE

PORT MELBOURNE S.C.7

16th May, 1941.

SECRET.

Secretary,
Naval Board,
Navy Office, MELBOURNE.

WAR DIARY - H.M.A.S. "LONSDALE" - QUARTER FEBRUARY, 1941 TO APRIL, 1941.

Submitted herewith for the information of the Naval Board in compliance with instructions contained in Navy Office Secret Memorandum No. 035037 dated 8th November 1940, is War Diary of H.M.A.S. "LONSDALE" for quarter February - April, 1941.

Lieut Commander, R.A.N.
for District Naval Officer, Victoria.

Encl.

WAR DIARY - H.M.A.S."LONSDALE"

QUARTER : FEBRUARY - APRIL, 1941.

DEPT. OF NAVY
589/201/779
SECRET

OPERATIONS OF 20TH MINE SWEEPING FLOTILLA

This unit was fully utilised in sweeping operations covering extensive areas in Bass Strait, Wilson's Promontory and Tasmania.

In April the Flotilla was ordered to the Cape Otway area where they commenced the clearance of the Otway Mine Field. Ships taking part in these operations were H.M.A.S.s "WARREGO" , "SWAN" "ORARA", "DOOMBA", "GOULBURN", assisted for dan laying purposes by H.M.A.SS. "DURRAWEEN", "BERYL 11" and "KOROWA", these latter ships being placed under the orders of the 20th M/S Flotilla for this period.

Report on the above operations was forwarded direct to Naval Board.

GROUP 54 and GROUP 58.

These groups were fully utilised in searching sweeps made daily in searched channels covering the entrance to Port Phillip and Wilson's Promontory areas. H.M.A.S."TOORIE" was attached to Group 54 on 3rd March and has been utilised in daily sweeps in both the above mentioned areas.

H.M.A.S."GOULBURN" & "BURNIE"

Both these newly constructed Corvetts arrived in Port Phillip during the quarter and intensive working up programme was immediately put into operation and this was successfully carried out, upon conclusion of which the ships were placed under the orders of the Senior Officer 20th M/S Flotilla.

PATERSON AND GERARD.

These vessels were taken over by the Naval Department during the quarter and upon arrival at Williamstown were placed in Dockyard hands for conversion to Auxiliary Naval Vessels. H.M.A.S. "PATERSON" commissioned on the 1st May 1941. The commissioning of "GERARD" is expected very shortly.

ENEMY MINES

During the quarter Mines were sighted in Bass Strait and arrangements made for their destruction. A mine was also washed up on the Victorian Coast where it was recovered by Naval personnel. After safety precautions had been taken this mine was used at Naval Recruiting Centres and is at present retained at H.M.A.S. "LONSDALE".

INTELLIGENCE.

The usual intelligence duties were carried out, the only particular item of interest being the unusual exodus of Japanese Nationals leaving Victoria for return to Japan.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL
RCDIG1074122

TELEPHONE No. MX.5241

RECEIVED 29 MAR A.M. NAVY CONFIDENTIAL RECORDS

Commonwealth of Australia

Department of The Navy

DEPT. OF NAVY CONFIDENTIAL 589/201/779

St 6301

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IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE No. C.11/1/80

Ack'd By Form A. S. 1380 Init. Date 28.3.41

Ack'd By Form A. S. 1380 Init.

SECRET

NAVAL STAFF OFFICE

Port Melbourne, S.C.7.
28th March, 1941.

Secretary,
Naval Board,
Navy Office, MELBOURNE.

WAR DIARY - H.M.A.S. "LONSDALE" - QUARTER NOVEMBER 1940 TO JANUARY 1941.

Submitted herewith for the information of the Naval Board in compliance with instructions contained in Navy Office Secret Memorandum No.035037 dated 8th November, 1940, is War Diary of H.M.A.S. "LONSDALE" for quarter November 1940 to January 1941.

Encl. 1/4

J.B. 1/4

Head of "N" 29/3/41c

D.C. N.S.

D.N. + cc. O.

Commander, R.A.N.
District Naval Officer, Victoria.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

SECRET

WAR DIARY - H.M.A.S. "LONSDALE".

QUARTER: NOVEMBER 1940 TO JANUARY 1941.

LOSS OF H.M.A.S. "GOORANGAI".

During the above quarter Base War Organisation, Port Phillip, suffered a loss in H.M.A.S. "GOORANGAI", a Unit of Group 58 Auxiliary Minesweepers. H.M.A.S. "GOORANGAI" was sunk on the evening of the 20th November, 1940, with the loss of the whole ship's company. Following is a brief summary of this happening and subsequant action taken.

H.M.A.S. "GOORANGAI" had re-entered Port Phillip after completion of her usual day's sweeping, and the first intimation of the sinking was a signal from Port War Signal Station stating that motor vessel "DUNTROON", a passenger steamer, on the coastal trade, had had a collision with H.M.A.S. "GOORANGAI" which had been sunk. Arrangements were immediately made by Port War Signal Station, M.V. "DUNTROON", Examination Vessel, Point Nepean Battery, Queenscliff lifeboat, Army vessel "MARS" and a private boat to pick up any survivors of the "GOORANGAI" ship's company which consisted of 3 Officers and 21 Ratings. Despite continued searching throughout the night and the following day no survivors were found.

The channel in which H.M.A.S. "GOORANGAI" was sunk was immediately closed to all shipping pending marking of wreck which was completed the following day. Shipping lane was then re-opened. A Board of Inquiry relative to the loss of H.M.A.S. "GOORANGAI" was held at Queenscliff on the 22nd November, and the result communicated to the Naval Board.

Considerable loose wrekcage, including minor minesweeping gear was found from the wreck, but up to the conclusion of the following day no bodies were recovered. Arrangements were immediately put in hand for a diving party to examine the wreck and report upon the damage sustained, the possibility of salvage, recovery of all or portion of gun and mounting, depth charges, confidential books and papers, and of course principally the recovery of any bodies. H.M.A.S. "BERYL II", the other Auxiliary Minesweeping vessel comprising Group 54, was diverted from its usual sweeping programme and ordered to assist the diving party in its duties. Bad weather and difficult tidal conditions delayed the operations of the diving party on very many occasions, but the diving party made every endeavour to carry out their operations even though on many occasions time was limited to only one hour's work.

It was found that H.M.A.S. "GOORANGAI" had been struck on the port side abaft the funnel in the engine room and was cut through the main engine to the starboard engine room casing, the hole being approximately 20' wide. Bodies were sighted but wreckage prevented recovery of the first body until the afternoon of the 24th November. It was found that it was impossible to salvage the "GOORANGAI", and tidal conditions were so acute that apart from salvaging H.M.A.S. "GOORANGAI" gun and mounting and one depth charge, 350' of minesweeping wire, standard compass and dan buoy gear, no other items of value could be obtained. Three other depth charges carried by the "GOORANGAI" were exploded owing to the fact that it was found that one was set at Ready by the foulling of wreckage, with a possibility of the others being in a similar condition, or the one set at Ready explosing and consequently exploding the other two. The operation of exploding the depth charges was completed on the 4th December.

Instructions were received from Naval Board that H.M.A.S. "GOORANGAI" was to be destroyed by demolition as it was found to be a menace to shipping. This operation was successfully completed on the 1st January, and according to demolition report a depth of 42' of water was above the wreck making this channel navigatable for shipping. Necessary notification of demolition was communicated to the Chief Engineer of Ports and Harbours for necessary promulgation in Notices to Mariners.

It was regretted that out of the ship's complement of 27, only 5 bodies were recovered. Naval Board and other authorities concerned were at all times kept fully posted with the progress and operations

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

undertaken in connection with the above. Marine Board of Inquiry into the sinking was held.

SHIPS LOST BY ENEMY MINES.

"Cambridge". This vessel was mined in a position 6 miles east of Wilson's Promontory on the evening of the 7th November. Upon receipt of this information from War Signal Station, Wilson's Promontory, all shipping from Port Phillip was suspended, and H.M.A. Ships "ORARA" and "DURRAWEEN" were despatched forthwith with a view to rendering assistance, towing if possible, and to sweep the Wilson Promontory area for mines.

The "Cambridge" carried a complement of 56, of which 55 survivors were picked up by H.M.A.S. "ORARA" from "Cambridge" lifeboats. One of the ship's complement was found to be missing. Several lifeboats and deck wreckage were washed up around the Wilson Promontory area. Confidential books carried by this vessel were sunk with the ship.

"City of Rayville". This vessel was mined in a position approximately 6 miles east of Cape Otway on the evening of 8th November, and upon receipt of this information from War Signal Station Cape Otway, all outward shipping from Port Phillip was suspended and H.M.A.S. "BERYL II" was despatched to the vicinity to pick up any survivors. Arrangements were made for the Tug "James Paterson" to proceed to the vicinity for towing purposes but this proved in vain as the vessel sank before the arrival of the Tug. 38 members of the ship's complement were landed at Apollo Bay, one member being found to be missing. Wrekcage from this vessel was picked up in the vicinity for some days afterwards. Arrangements were immediately made for sweeping of this area for mines.

OPERATIONS OF THE 20th MINESWEEPING FLOTILLA, ALSO GROUP 54 AND 58 AUXILIARY MINESWEEPERS.

These Units were utilised fully in sweeping both Wilson's Promontory and Cape Otway areas, also other searched channel areas for mines which had been laid and which were responsible for the sinking of the above two mentioned ships. Mines were found in both Wilson's Promontory and Cape Otway areas.

During the quarter all these vessels have been in continuous employment having been diverted to Adelaide and Tasmania on similar missions to that on which they were operating in Victoria. Several floating mines were also discovered on the Victorian coast and these were destroyed.

The operations of the above H.M.A.Ships and the results obtained make it evident that the "Cambridge" and "City of Rayville" were sunk by enemy mines.

GROUNDING OF S.S. "ORUNGAL".

An intercept message from S.S. "ORUNGAL" was received from Port War Signal Station on the 21st November that S.S. "ORUNGAL" had grounded and was ashore off Barwon Heads. Arrangements were made for the Tug "Eagle" to go to the assistance of this vessel, and also H.M.A.S. "BERYL II". Owing to extremely bad weather conditions it was found impossible for H.M.A.S. "BERYL II" to proceed. The lifeboatd from Queenscliff was launched and proceeded to the "ORUNGAL". The Examination Vessel "Victoria" was also despatched to take off any passengers. All passengers and about 40 of the "ORUNGAL" crew were transferred to the Queenscliff lifeboat and returned to Point Lonsdale.

Efforts to salvage S.S. "ORUNGAL" were immediately made, but up to the 13th December this had proved unsuccessful. On the 13th December a fire of unknown origin broke out in this vessel and the ship was a constructive total loss through same. Arrangements were made for the removal of the 4" gun and mounting from S.S."ORUNGAL".

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

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

H.M.A.S. "BATHURST" one of the newly constructed Corvettes arrived at Port Phillip on 21st December, 1940. Working up programme was immediately put in operation for this ship which was successfuly carried out. Upon conclusion of the working up programme H.M.A.S. "BATHURST" was temporarily attached to the 20th Minesweeping Flotilla for Minesweeping duties, finally departing Port Phillip on the 3rd January, 1941.

H.M.A.S. "BALLARAT".

H.M.A.S. "BALLARAT" was launched at the Dockyard Williamstown during the quarter. Commissioning of this ship will not take place for some time.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

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DEPT. OF NAVY
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TELEPHONE No. [redacted]

MX.5241

Commonwealth of Australia

Department of ~~Defence~~ the Navy.

REPLY PLEASE QUOTE
No. C11/1/80

CONFIDENTIAL

NAVAL STAFF OFFICE

Port Melbourne, S.C.7.
30th November, 1940.

Secretary,
Naval Board,
Navy Office, MELBOURNE.

WAR DIARY - OCTOBER 1940 - H.M.A.S. "LONSDALE".

Submitted herewith for the information of the Naval Board in compliance with instructions contained in the Board's confidential memorandum No.589/201/765 of 10th February, 1940, is the War Diary of H.M.A.S. "LONSDALE" for the month of October, 1940.

Encl./

W. J. Hurst
Lieutenant-Commander, R.A.N.R.
for District Naval Officer, Victoria.
(A.O.D.)

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL
RCDIG1074122

WAR DIARY - H.M.A.S. "LONSDALE".

Month of October, 1940.

October 1st — H.M.A.S. "GOORANGAI" and H.M.A.S. "BERYL II" departed Port Phillip to carry out previous Minesweeping programme returning to Port Phillip at 0747Z/30.

Reports were received during the day of H.M.A.Ships "DOOMBA" "ORARA" and "DURRAWEEN" Minesweeping in Wilson's Promontory area.

October 2nd — H.M.A.Ships "SWAN" and "WARREGO" departed from Port Melbourne for exercise in Port Phillip. H.M.A.S. "SWAN" reported that A/S dome was damaged, and arrangements were made for replacement.

Arrangements were put in hand to effect engine repairs of H.M.A.S. "BERYL II" upon completion of sweeping on 3rd October. Coaling during period of repairs was also arranged.

H.M.A.S. "PERTH" escorting one ship was reported by War Signal Station, Wilson's Promontory.

Naval Control Service was informed of movements and description of German M/V "REGENSBERG" as promulgated by Naval Board for informing Masters of British Merchant Vessels.

H.M.A.Ships "GOORANGAI" and "BERYL II" departed Port Phillip returning at 0740Z.

October 3rd — H.M.A.Ships "GOORANGAI" and "BERYL II" departed Port Phillip, returning at 0540Z. H.M.A.S. "BERYL II" proceeded to Williamstown for repairs and coaling preparatory to resuming programme on 7th October.

Senior Officer, 20th M.S.F. reported H.M.A.Ships "DOOMBA", "ORARA" and "DURRAWEEN" sailing from Burnie for searching sweeps in Bass Strait prior to return to Melbourne.

October 4th — H.M.A.S. "GOORANGAI" departed Port Phillip, re-entering at 0628Z and anchoring off Queenscliff.

H.M.A.Ships "WARREGO" and "SWAN" secured Princes Pier after exercise in Port Phillip.

Arrangements were made for the attendance of a tug on Pattern VI Target with rake party and attendance in Port Phillip for gunnery practice of 20th M.S.F.

H.M.A.Ships "DOOMBA" and "ORARA" entered Port Phillip at 1347Z.

October 5th — H.M.A.S. "GOORANGAI" departed Port Phillip at 1955Z/4 re-entering at 0631Z.

Naval Board message was received promulgating the restriction of Inter Station Shipping messages to be adopted. This was passed to Naval Control Service for necessary action.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

October 5th — Report was received from the C.X.O. that the "MARTIN SIVERTSEN" had one Swede, two Danish, one German and one National onboard. This message was passed to Staff Officer (Intelligence) for necessary investigation.

October 6th — H.M.A.S. "BERYL II" completed repairs and would be ready to resume sweeping programme on Monday 7th October.

October 7th — H.M.A.S. "GOORANGAI" departed Port Phillip at 2117Z/6, H.M.A.S. "BERYL II" leaving Williamstown at 2201Z/6. Both these ships were to resume minesweeping programme as previously arranged, and re-entered Port Phillip at 0745Z.

H.M.A.Ships "SWAN" and "WARREGO" departed Port Melbourne for exercises in Port Phillip Bay.

October 8th — H.M.A.Ships "BERYL II" and "GOORANGAI" departed Port Phillip at 2107Z/7, re-entering at 0658Z.

An Admiralty message received stated that darkening of many merchant ships, especially neutrals, in inadequate, pointing out the necessity of this matter owing to "U" boats attacks through non compliance. This message was passed to Naval Control Service for necessary action as regards merchant vessels.

An Admiralty message promulgated in reference to increased vigilance as regards anti-sabotage measures was passed to Naval Control Service for informing of all concerned.

October 9th — H.M.A.S. "MORESBY" entered Port Phillip securing at Port Melbourne.

H.M.A.Ships "GOORANGAI" and "BERYL II" departed Port Phillip 2121Z/8, re-entering at 0741Z.

H.M.A.S.."MORESBY" was warned of gunnery firings being carried out in certain area in Port Phillip.

H.M.A.S. "DOOMBA" reported her intention of sailing for Sydney on 10th October for refit.

October 10th — Group 54 A/Ms. departed Port Phillip 2120Z/9, re-entering at 0755Z.

Arrangements were made for fuelling at Port Melbourne of H.M.A.S. "PERTH", also for the coaling of H.M.A.S. "GOORANGAI" on Friday 11th October.

H.M.A.S. "WARREGO" took over duties of Senior Officer, 20th M.S.F.

H.M.A.S. "DOOMBA" departed Port Phillip en route to Sydney for refit.

Arrangements were made for a seaward patrol to be carried out daily until departure of H.M.T. "MAURETANIA".

October 11th — Group 54, A/Ms. Departed Port Phillip at 1928Z/10, re-entering at 0500Z.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

October 11th. H.M.A.Ships "SWAN" and "WARREGO" departed to Port Phillip for Bay exercises.

Arrangements were put in hand to see if any motor boats of seagoing type 45' to 70' long, with a speed of 14 knots or over were available in Victoria for purchase by the Navy Department.

October 12th Arrangements were made with G.O.C. Southern Command, to investigate the fact that the American ship "MARIPOSA" had onboard 11 Germans, 5 Russians, 1 Esthonian, 1 Swede, 2 Roumanians, 4 Hungarians, 3 Italians, 2 Austrians, 2 Dutchmen, 5 Norwegians and 3 Frenchmen.

H.M.T. "MAURETANIA" entered Port Phillip securing at Port Melbourne. Seaward patrol previously arranged immediately came into operation.

H.M.A.S. "BERYL II" departed Port Phillip at 2026Z/11, re-entering at 0600Z.

Owing to boiler defects H.M.T. "MAURETANIA" reported that she could not be ready for sea before Monday 21st October. This fact was reported to Naval Board observing original programme laid down and escort arrangements previously made, also searching of various channels prior to departure.

October 14th H.M.A.S. "PERTH" entered Port Phillip berthing at Port Melbourne where oiling previously arranged was made.

H.M.A.S."BERYL II" departed Port Phillip 2106Z/13, H.M.A.S. "GOORANGAI" slipped from Williamstown departing Port Phillip at 0210Z. These ships re-entered at 0648Z.

H.M.T. "BATORY" which was proceeding to Port Phillip grounded on the edge of Dredge Channel into Port Melbourne, was finally freed and arrived Port Melbourne 0900K.

Arrangements were made for one tug with Pattern Vi target to be in position in Port Phillip Bay for Tuesday for sub calibre firings by H.M.A.S. "PERTH". Rake party was not required. An escort vessel from 20th M.S.F. was detailed to act as target vessel for throw short shoot by H.M.A.S. "PERTH".

October 15th H.M.A.S. "MORESBY" departed Port Phillip.

H.M.A.Ships "PERTH" and "SWAN" departed Port Melbourne for exercises in Port Phillip Bay, "SWAN" later secured at Williamstown, "PERTH" departing Port Phillip.

Arrangements were made for an Officer of H.M.A.S. "WARREGO" to carry out Compass adjustments of H.M.A.S. "DURRAWEEN".

October 16th Group 54, A/Ms. departed Port Phillip at 1955Z/15, re-entering at 0607Z.

War Signal Station, Cape Otway, reported unknown hospital ship westbound at 22L2Z/15. This proved to be H.M.S. "MANUNDA".

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

October 17th — Group 54, A/Ms. departed Port Phillip at 2058Z/16 re-entering at 0600Z.

20th M.S.F. departed Port Phillip at 0853Z.

October 18th — Group 54, A/Ms. departed Port Phillip at 1917Z/17, re-entering at 0545Z.

H.M.A.S. "BERYL II" proceeded to Williamstown to coal.

October 19th — H.M.A.S. "GOORANGAI" departed Port Phillip at 1927Z/18, re-entering at 0525Z.

During the day various signals were received from War Signal Station, Wilsnn's Promontory reporting minesweeping movements of 20th M.S.F.

October 20th — "KOROWA" entered Port Phillip securing at Williamstown

October 21st — In view of a QQQQ message picked up by P.W.S.S. from M/V "KARITANE" Extended Defence Officer was instructed to inform the Queenscliff Battery that no ship was to leave the Port until further orders, and information was sought as to whether H.M.T. "MAURETANIA" was to proceed to rendezvous as previously arranged. Naval Board replied to the effect that ships were not to sail from Melbourne, Sydney or Hobart until further orders. This message was later in the day cancelled, normal movements being permitted.

H.M.A.S. "GOORANGAI" departed Port Phillip, H.M.A.S. "BERYL II" slipped from Williamstown and later departed from Port Phillip, both ships re-entering at 0735Z.

H.M.T. "MAURETANIA" departed Port Phillip.

H.M.A.S. "DURRAWEEN" entered Port Phillip securing at Williamstown. Arrangements were made for boiler cleaning, coaling and storing, together with engine room defects.

October 23rd — Group 54, A/M.s departed Port Phillip, re-entering at 0649Z.

Arrangements for the fumigation of H.M.A.S. "KOROWA" were put in hand.

October 24th — Group 54, A/Ms. departed Port Phillip, re-entering at 0725Z.

Arrangements were put in hand for the painting of distinguishing letters and numbers on Auxiliary Minesweeping and A/S Vessels operating in Port Phillip.

October 25th — 20th M.S.F. entered Port Phillip and arrangements were made for berthing, oiling and coaling at Williamstown.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

October 25th — Group 54 A/Ms. departed Port Phillip, re-entering at 0453Z.

H.M.A.S. "GOORANGAI" proceeded to Williamstown for coaling and supplies.

H.M.A.S. "KOROWA" came under the orders of Senior Officer, 20th M.S.F. as from a.m. 25th. October.

October 26th — H.M.A.S. "BERYL II" departed Port Phillip, re-entering at 0623Z.

October 27th — All chipping entering Port Phillip was advised that a punt made of heavy timber had broken adrift from the wreck of the "KAKARIKI" and was a danger to navigation.

October 28th — H.M.A.S. "GOORANGAI" slipped from Williamstown and proceeded to sea. These ships later departed from Port Phillip.

H.M.A.S. "BERYL II" departed Port Phillip.

Group 54, A/Ms. re-entered Port Phillip at 0820Z.

October 30th — Group 54 A/Ms. departed Port Phillip, re-entering at 0826Z.

Admiralty message was received giving information of types of incendary bombs being used by Italians and this was passed to Naval Control Service for necessary promulgation when necessary.

20th M.S.F. departed Port Melbourne for exercises in Port Phillip Bay.

October 31st — Group 54 A/Ms. departed Port Phillip, re-entering at 0611Z.

H.M.A.S. "ORARA" departed Port Phillip having previously been assigned the duty of acting as Safety Vessel off Wilson's Promontory area during R.A.A.F. Flight.

Usual "Q" and "W.D.V." messages were received as were also Admiralty and Commander in Chiefs' advices regarding methods of routeing to and entering ports which had been mined, details of searched channels, navigation lights, buoys, etc.

During the month several vessels entering and/or leaving port Phillip did not follow the routeing instructions given as regards swept channels, and these cases were in all instances investigated by Naval Control Service Officers.

20th M/S.F. carried out the prearranged programme of sweeps and searches as did also Group 54 A/Ms.

Further Officers were drafted to the United Kingdom for disposal and indications are that this will continue for some time, particularly so with the rapid training of Anti-Submarine Officers and ratings also appointees under the R.N.V.R. scheme of Dominion enlistment.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

TELEPHONE No. MX.5241

Commonwealth of Australia

Department of ~~Defence~~ the Navy.

DEPT. OF NAVY 589/201/779 SECRET

ACK. BY A.S. 10 OCT P.M. INIT. Dwm.

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE

No. C.11/1/80

SECRET

NAVAL STAFF OFFICE
Port Melbourne, S.C.7.
9th October, 1940.

Secretary,
Naval Board,
Navy Office, MELBOURNE.

WAR DIARY - SEPTEMBER 1940 - H.M.A.S. "LONSDALE".

Submitted herewith for the information of the Naval Board in compliance with instructions contained in the Board's confidential memorandum No.589/201/765 of 10th February, 1940, is the War Diary of H.M.A.S. "LONSDALE" for the month of September, 1940.

[signature]
Commander, R.A.N.
District Naval Officer, Victoria.

EN 1./

J.N. 10/10/40

letter sent see 031917 17/10/40

H of N. Please inform the C.O. that the war diary should be confined to the activities which directly affect HMAS Lonsdale, and that it should not contain paraphrases of signals unless they are necessary to explain these activities. [initials] for ACNS - 13/10.

~~ACNS~~

D.N.I.

SECRET

H.M.A.S. "LONSDALE".

NAVAL STAFF OFFICE, PORT MELBOURNE.

WAR DIARY - SEPTEMBER, 1940.

September 1.

Chief Examining Officer, Port Phillip, reported that one Danish National was onboard H.M.A.S. "KOOKABURRA". This information was passed to Staff Officer (Intelligence) for investigation.

Naval Board promulgated information from Admiralty giving the possible description of the Indian Ocean raider. This information was passed to Naval Control Service for necessary action with Masters of Merchant vessels.

September 2.

H.M.A.S. "GOORANGAI" departed from Williamstown at 0800K, departing Port Phillip at 1208K, re-entering at 1348Z and anchoring off Queenscliff.

N.O.C.S. reported that H.M.A.S. "WARREGO" had departed Sydney for Melbourne via Jervis Bay, E.T.A. Port Phillip being 2100Z/5th September.

H.M.S. "ACHILLIES" reported E.T.A. at Auckland as 0615LM/5th September.

War Signal Station, Wilson's Promontory, reported H.M.A.S. "DURRAWEEN" West, E.T.A. Port Melbourne being 2300Z.

H.M.S. "ACHILLIES" wearing broad pendant of C.C.N.Z. departed Port Melbourne for Auckland, departing Port Phillip at 1104Z.

September 3.

H.M.A.S. "DURRAWEEN" entered Port Phillip at 1857Z/2, berthing arrangements having previously been made.

H.M.T. "DUNERA" entered Port Phillip at 1926Z/2, securing Port Melbourne 0001Z. Arrangements were immediately made for the disembarkation of internees.

H.M.A.S. "GOORANGAI" departed Port Phillip at 2102z/2, re-entering at 0705Z and anchoring off Queenscliff.

Information was received from Naval Officer in Charge, Auckland, that H.M.S. "MONOWAI" commissioned at 0900 Friday 30th August, Captain H.U.P. McClintock, R.N., being in command.

Information was promulgated by Naval Board of the numbers and disembarkation ports of Military and civilian evacuees from Shanghai arriving from Hong Kong in the S.S. "TAMBA".

September 4.

H.M.A.S. "GOORANGAI" departed Port Phillip 2054Z/3, re-entering at 0710Z and anchoring off Queenscliff.

H.M.T. "DUNERA" with internees onboard departed Port Melbourne for Sydney 2100Z/3, E.T.A. Sydney being 2100Z/5th September.

Admiralty report promulgated by Naval Board was received that at night and in low visibility "U" boats were firing torpedoes from outside visibility range by a secret method which enabled them to plot range and bearing of target. It was considered, therefore, that it would be advisable under these conditions for ships to zig zag if circumstances permitted/ This information was passed to Naval Control Service Officer.

A report was received that an unknown Armed Merchant Cruiser was sunk off the California Coast on the 18th August. Details of this ship were also given.

N.O.C.S. reported that it was proposed to sail H.M.A.S. "ALFIE CAM" for Fremantle on the 17th September, this ship calling at Melbourne and Adelaide en route, remaining 2 days at each port.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

SECRET

September 4. Suggested programme after completion of refit for H.M.A.S. "BERYL II" was received.

September 5. H.M.A.S. "GOORANGAI" departed Port Phillip at 2114Z/4, re-entering at 0649Z and anchoring off Queenscliff.

Naval Board promulgated to F.O.C.A.S., N.O.C.S., and to District Naval Officers information to the effect that a ship which could not be identified was sighted by aircraft in position 36°52' South, 115°30' East, at 0016Z/3rd September, course 298°. The aircraft which was sent to shadow this ship failed to locate same owing to poor visibility. Further air searches on the 4th September were also unsuccessful. Full description of the ship was given. This information was forwarded to Staff Officer (Intelligence) and Naval Control Service Officer for any information they may be able to obtain which would identify this particular ship.

Commander-in-Chief, East Indies promulgated detailed information regarding coaling of ships which call at Suez and Port Sudan in order to conserve coal stocks in Egypt. Naval Control Service Officer was informed so that necessary arrangements to comply with the above direction could be carried out.

F.O.C.A.S. reported that H.M.A.S. "PERTH" with Convoy U.S.5 expected to pass Wilson's Promontory from eastward a.m. Saturday 14th September, also requesting that a channel one mile wide giving latitude and longitude be searched before the arrival of the Convoy.

H.M.A.S. "KOROWA" which was to proceed to Port Phillip was now to be retained at Fremantle for Minesweeping duties until after the departure of U.S.5.

September 6. H.M.A.S. "WARREGO" entered Port Phillip at 2138Z/5. This ship proceeded to Williamstown for oil and then slipped and proceeded to Port Melbourne, berthing at 0345Z.

H.M.A.S. "GOORANGAI" departed Port Phillip at 2048Z/5, re-entering at 0709Z/6 and anchoring off Portsea.

Information was received from Naval Board to the effect that Officers and Ratings who were previously to be enrolled in the R.N.V.R. under the Admiralty scheme for Yachtsmen were now to be entered in the R.A.N.V.R. Necessary arrangements were immediately put in hand.

Arrangements were made with the General Officer Commanding Southern Command for a Guard to be provided at Station Pier from 0900K/7th September at which time cargo for S.1 and S.2 was to commence to arrive.

Message was received from "ALFIE CAM" giving E.T.A. Melbourne as 0600Z/10th September.

September 7. H.M.A.S. "GOORANGAI" departed Port Phillip at 2120Z/6, re-entering at 0442Z and anchoring off Queenscliff.

N.O.C.S. reported departure of H.M.A.S. "ALFIE CAM" for Melbourne at 0028Z.

On information being received that the probable date of H.M.A.S. "WARREGO" sailing for Fremantle was Wednesday, 11th September, the working up programme of this ship was amended accordingly, particular attention being given to obtaining Anti Submarine efficiency.

September 8. War Signal Station, Gabo Island, reported H.M.A.S. "ALFIE CAM" westward.

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September 9. H.M.A.S. "GOORANGAI" departed Port Phillip at 2044Z/8 re-entering at 0910Z and anchoring off Queenscliff, changing anchorage at 1158Z off Portsea.

H.M.A.S. "BERYL II" which had concluded a refit slipped and proceeded for trials in Port Phillip at 0810K.

Information was received from Naval Board that the E.T.A. Melbourne of S.2 and S.1 was 2200/9th September and 2355/9th September respectively.

Senior Officer, 20th M.S.F. reported that it was intention to proceed with H.M.A.S. "ORARA"at 0400Z to Wilson's Promontory area, H.M.A.S. "DURRAWEEN" remaining at Port Melbourne and sailing Wednesday 11th September to join H.M.A.Ships"DOOMBA" and "ORARA" off Wilson's Promontory.

H.M.A.Ships "DOOMBA" and "ORARA" departed Port Melbourne at 0410Z, departing Port Phillip at 0741Z.

September 10. War Signal Station, Wilson's Promontory, reported H.M.A.S. "ALFIE CAM" westward, alsomunknown H.M. Ship eastward at 0925Z/9.

H.M.Transport S.1 entered Port Phillip at 2150Z/9 and S.2 at 2217Z/9.

H.M.A.S."BERYL II" and H.M.A.S. "GOORANGAI" departed Port Phillip at 2157Z/9, re-entering at 0722Z and anchoring off Portsea.

H.M.Transport "CHRISTIAN HUYGENS" reported sighting ship acting suspiciously latitude 30°05' South, longitude 150°23' East. Full description of this vessel was given and the information was passed to Naval Board.

Naval Board stated that British and Allied ships may now be sailed for ports in French Indo China. N.C.S.Officer and Staff Officer (Intelligence) were informed.

H.M.A.S. "WARREGO" was to sail for Fremantle 11th September after completing with fuel at Williamstown, and was to come under the orders of F.O.C.A.S. upon departure from Port phillip.

An Admiralty message was received that from noon 27th August merchant ships and fishing vessels at sea may engage by day and night any aircraft not recognised as friendly which approached within range of ships' guns, and consequently friendly aircraft should therefore avoid approaches within 1500 yards of such ships as they are liable to be fired upon. A further message from Admiralty stated that approval had been given that fuse setting for all H.E. shells for Anti-aircraft guns in merchant ships and fishing vessels be set to burst at 850 yards.

September 11. H.M.A.S. "ALFIE CAM" entered Port Phillip at 1912Z/10 securing at Williamstown at 0909K. The Hull Overseer, Williamstown, advises that this ship cannot be efficiently prepared for sea owing to defects required, until approximately 20th September. In view of this the programme for H.M.A.S. "ALFIE CAM" was amended accordingly.

Port War Signal Station reported having sighted H.M.A.S. "BERYL II" in West Channelproceeding for Melbourne, This ship secured at Williamstown at 0750K.

H.M.A.S. "GOORANGAI" departed Port Phillip at 2115Z/10, re-entering at 0657Z and anchoring off Queenscliff.

H.M.A.S. "DURRAWEEN" departed Port Phillip at 0221Z.

H.M.A.S. "SWAN" reported proposed programme regarding undocking, storing, degaussing, compass adjustment, full power trials, gunnery equipment trials, after which she intended proceeding to Port Phillip, arriving Port Melbourne 18th September.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

SECRET

September 11. H.M.A.S. "WARREGO" reported E.T.A. Fremantle as 0900Z 17th September. This ship slipped and proceeded to sea at 1840K departing Port Phillip at 1101Z.

September 12. H.M.A.S. "GOORANGAI" departed Port Phillip 2057Z/11, re-entering at 0706Z and anchoring off Queenscliff.

War Signal Station, Wilson's Promontory reported H.M.A.S. "DURRAWEEN" west 2050Z/11 and eastward at 2229Z/11.

Commander in Chief, East Indies, gave information that the "ATHELKING" in position 24°48' South, 67°40' East reported having been shelled by a disguised merchant ship raider at 0352Z/9th September.

War Signal Station, Wilson's Promontory, reported H.M.A.Ships "DOOMBA", "ORARA" and "DURRAWEEN" south.

Information was promulgated from Commander in Chief, South Atlantic Station, that it appears possible that raider distress signals from merchant ships are in some cases being cancelled by the raider itself. Wireless operators are to be warned accordingly in order that in the event of a cancellation being received they may know where the characteristics of transmission differ from those of the original report. This information was passed to Naval Control Service Officer.

H.M.A.Ships "DOOMBA", "ORARA" and "DURRAWENN" anchored in Waterloo Bay.

Commander in Chief, East Indies, reported that a plane from disguised merchant ship raider bombed British ship "BENARTY" in position 018°40' South, 075°54' East at 0932/10th September.

Naval Board promulgated the information to all concerned that the only period available for H.M.A.S."SWAN" and H.M.A.S. "WARREGO" H.A. Sleeve Firings in Port Phillip was from the 7th to the 12th October, and it was proposed that both ships be sailed as convenient to arrive Port Phillip not later than Tuesday, 1st October, which would enable a few days height finding prior to high angle firings being carried out.

September 13. H.M.A.S. "BERYL II" departed Williamstown 2030Z/12th September anchoring off Queenscliff at 0020Z. This ship was unable to carry out sweeping owing to bad weather. She also had main engine defective and requested permission to return immediately at slow speed in daylight to effect repairs. Approval for this was given, and upon arrival at Williamstown defects were immediately put in hand.

Commander in Chief, East Indies, reported that only ships capable of maintaining a speed of at least 8 knots through the water can be accepted in B.N. and B.S. convoys. Ships with a lower speed and bound for Red Sea ports and Suez must trans-ship their cargo east or south of Aden to faster ships. British or Allied shipping which is not acceptable in convoy will not be allowed to enter the Red Sea and neutral ships will do so at their own risk.

September 14. H.M.A.S. "GOORANGAI" departed Port Phillip at 2026Z/13, re-entering at 0600Z and anchoring off Queenscliff.

War Signal Station, Wilson's Promontory, reported H.M.A.Ships "DOOMBA" and "ORARA" Minesweeping eastward at 0145Z, westward at 0624Z and proceeding to Waterloo Bay at 1010Z.

H.M.A.S."WONGALA" departed Port Phillip for Adelaide at 0420Z. This ship was later reported eastbound by War Signal Station, Cape Otway.

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September 14. Information was received from the Naval Board to the effect that F. Dickenson, Gunner, who was landed from H.M.Transport "NEHRALIA" committed suicide at the Austin Hospital, Victoria, on the 14th September. Admiralty have been informed.

N.O.C.S. reported the departure of H.M.A.S. "PERTH" flying the flag of F.O.C.A.S. and escorting U.S.5.

September 15. Group 54, A/Ms. departed Port Phillip 2116Z/14.

H.M.A.S. "GOORANGAI" entered Port Phillip at 0643Z, E.T.A. Williamstown being 2015K.

H.M.A.S. "BERYL II" entered Port Phillip at 0758Z, anchoring off Queenscliff.

Senior Officer, 20th M.S.F. reported that upon completion of sweeping on 15th September, it was intended that H.M.A.S. "DOOMBA" return to Melbourne for gunnery practice, H.M.A.S. "ORARA" and H.M.A.S. "DURRAWEEN" remaining in Wilson's Promontory area. The latter two ships proceeded to Waterloo Bay at 0800Z.

Information was received from the Coast Watcher, Peterborough, that at 1940K a vessel with all lights burning passed westward leaving a blaze of light behind. It appeared like a ship afire. War Signal Station, Cape Otway, reported that no vessel had passed westward. This information was immediately forwarded to Naval Board.

September 16. H.M. Transport "STRATHNAVER" entered Port Phillip at 1616Z/15.

H.M.A.S. "DOOMBA" entered Port Phillip at 1838Z securing at Port Melbourne.

War Signal Station, Wilson's Promontory reported H.M.A.Ships "ORARA" and "DURRAWEEN" eastward, later westward.

War Signal Station, Wilson's Promontory, reported convoy of two ships escorted by H.M.A.S. "PERTH" west. H.M. Transports S.1 and S/2 departed Port Phillip.

H.M.A.S. "BERYL II" departed Port Phillip at 2105Z/15, re-entering at L715Z and anchoring off Queenscliff.

An Admiralty message was received that all British merchant ships were to be informed, other than by W/T method, that a raider has recently attempted to cancel distress messages made by a ship she has attacked. The fact that the cancellation was faked was known from the difference in note and operating, and in similar circumstances a ship should endeavour to take bearings and report the fact and bearings and suspected transmission by a coded message.

War Signal Station, Cape Otway, reported that convoy of four ships and H.M.A.S. "PERTH" westward at 0645Z.

September 17. H.M.A.S. ORARA" and "DURRAWEEN" entered Port Phillip and proceeded to Port Melbourne,

H.M.A.S. "BERYL II" departed Port Phillip 2050Z/16, re-entering at 0562Z and anchoring off Portsea.

H.M.A.S. "DOOMBA" departed Port Phillip for Gunnery School Firings in Port Phillip Bay.

H.M.Freightship "STRATHNAVER" left Port Melbourne at 0230Z for Bay anchorage.

District Naval Officer, South Australia, reported arrival of H.M.A.S. "WONGALA" at Adelaide.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

September 17. Naval Board promulgated forecast of future movements at the end of September of U.S.5A, together with convoy arrangements. This information was passed to Transport Officers and Staff Officer (Intelligence).

September 18. H.M.A.S. "ALFIE CAM" slipped and proceeded to sea, departing Port Phillip at 0213Z, E.T.A. Port Adelaide being 0600/21st September.

District Naval Officer, Western Australia, reported arrival of H.M.A.S. "WARREGO" at Fremantle.

H.M.A.S. "BERYL II" departed Port Phillip at 2300Z/17, re-entering at 0738Z and anchoring off Portsea.

September 19. H.M.A.S. "GOORANGAI" departed Williamstown. This ship later departed Port Phillip at 0213Z, H.M.A.S. "BERYL II" having already departed Port Phillip at 0026Z. Both these ships re-entered Port Phillip at 0733Z, anchoring off Queenscliff.

September 20. H.M.A.Ships "BERYL II" and "GOORANGAI" departed Port Phillip at 2103Z/19, H.M.A.S. "BERYL II" re-entering at 0630Z and proceeding to Melbourne, "H.M.A.S. "GOORANGAI" re-entering at 0721Z, anchoring off Portsea.

Naval Board promulgated the information that H.M.A.S. "SWAN" was to proceed to Westernport on departure from Sydney to obtain the benefit of Gunnery School facilities available.

Naval Board forwarded an Admiralty message to the effect that it was important that ships sighting a U. boat should invariably report whether a periscope or a submarine on the surface has been sighted. Any further information obtainable such as the course of submarine or its distance and bearings from the sighting ship would be considered of value.
Naval Board also promulgated the information that the Seafort Wireless Station, Liverpool, was now equipped to give D/F bearings to ships. This information was forwarded to Naval Control Service for the information of merchant ships.

H.M.A.S. "GOORANGAI" reported the loss of an Oropesa Float on 9th September. Naval Control Service Officer was requested to ask Masters of merchant ships to keep a lookout for same whilst operating in Victorian waters, with a view to recovery. "CITY OF LILLE" reported having sighted floating object resembling an Oropesa Flaot off Citadel Island, giving latitude and longitude.

N.O.C.S. reported departure of H.M.A.S. "SWAN" from Sydney, E.T.A. Westernport being 22nd September.

Information was received from N.O.C.S. of proposed Anti Submarine Training Cruise by H.M.A.S. "MORESBY". This was in furtherance of the policy of training Anti Submarine Officers in Australia for service in the Royal Navy.

September 21. H.M.A.S. "GOORANGAI" departed Port Phillip 2051Z/20, re-entering at 0153Z, anchoring off Portsea. This early return was due to weather conditions being unsuitable for sweeping.

"JOHAN DE WITT" and "NIEUW ZEELAND" comprising U.S.5A are required to sail from Sydney and Melbourne respectively with troops as soon as practicable after fitting out. Detailed orders including escort arrangements were to be promulgated at a later date.

Naval Board message was received that French Ship "COMMISAIRE RAMEL" in position 028°25' South 074°23' East made distress message for warship raider at 1940Z/19th September.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

SECRET

September 21. Following on the above information relative to the "COMMISAIRE RAMEL" information was received from Naval Board that Naval Control Service Officers were, where practicable, to make more use of routes between 32° South and 36° South for vessels proceeding from Australia to South Africa.

September 22. F.O.C.A.S. reported that it was intended to sail H.M.A.S. "PERTH" from Fremantle on 22nd September for Sydney, arriving at that port on 26th September. It was also intended to sail H.M.A.S. "WARREGO" from Fremantle on completion of fuelling after return from convoying U.S.5 for Melbourne.

Information was received from the Naval Board that British Allied and chartered shipping could now call at ports in French Cameroons and French Equatorial Africa, excluding Gaboon.

An Admiralty message was received that ships which had been degaussed whether coiled or wiped are not to sail until compasses have been adjusted to the satisfaction of the Master. This instruction was to also apply to ships whose original degaussing installation had undergone modification. This information was passed to Naval Control Service Officer for passing to the Masters of merchant ships.

N.O.C. Flinders Naval Depot reported the arrival of H.M.A.S. "SWAN" at 0045Z.

September 23. H.M.A.S. "GOORANGAI" departed Port Phillip at 2112Z/22, re-entering at 0537Z and anchoring off Queenscliff.

Senior Officer, 20th M.S.F. reported the intention to proceed for exercises in Port Phillip. Exercises were carried out.

Security measures were arranged with the G.O.C. Southern Command in regard to H.M.T. "NIEUW ZEELAND".

Sailing of H.M.A.S. "BERYL II" was delayed owing to engine defects necessitating docking. It was anticipated that this ship would be ready to proceed to sea a.m. Thursday, 26th September.

September 24. H.M.A.S. "GOORANGAI" departed Port Phillip at 2104Z/23, re-entering at 0612Z and anchoring off Queenscliff.

Staff Officer (Intelligence) Wellington reported approach routes in force in New Zealand

Seaward patrol was instituted for H.M.T. "NIEUW ZEELAND" which is to berth at Outer West Station Pier, Port Melbourne. Detailed orders were given to patrol.

H.M.A.S. "WARREGO" reported E.T.A. Port Phillip 1700Z on Sunday. This ship departed from Fremantle 0400Z.

Commander-in-Chief, East Indies, reported that Dutch Commander-in-Chief, Netherlands East Indies, had forbidden Dutch ships to trade to Madagascar or Reunion. Dutch ships wishing to sail for these Territories were to be so informed. Information was to be forwarded to Naval Board of any ship wishing to sail for these Territories.

September 25. H.M.A.S. "GOORANGAI" departed Port Phillip at 2100Z/24, re-entering at 0547Z and anchoring off Queenscliff.

Naval Board promulgated rendezvous of U.S.5A. This was passed to Sea Transport Officers.

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September 25. Owing to the fact that H.M.T. "NIEUW ZEELAND" had been unable in the limited time available to train sufficient lifeboat men to comply with passenger Certificate requirements, arrangements were made for the training to be completed in Melbourne upon arrival.

September 26. H.M.A.S. "GOORANGAI" departed Port Phillip at 2102Z/25, and H.M.A.S. "BERYL II" at 0137Z, re-entering at 0700Z and anchoring off Queenscliff.

Admiralty information was received regarding Table of Special Light and Sound Signals in regard to ships in convoy being torpedoed.

S.O. 20th M.S.F. reported the intention to proceed on 26th September with H.M.A.Ships "ORARA" and "DURRAWEEN" to Wilson's Promontory area for sweeping, and thence to Burnie on the 2nd October for searching sweeps in Bass Strait prior to return to Melbourne on 5th October.

N.O.C.S. reported the arrival of H.M.A.S. "PERTH" flying the flag of F.O.C.A.S.

September 27. H.M.A.Ships "GOORANGAI" and "BERYL II" departed Port Phillip at 1920Z/26, re-entering at 0624Z, H.M.A.S. "BERYL II" anchoring off Queenscliff, H.M.A.S. "GOORANGAI" securing at Williamstown 1948K.

H.M.T. "NIEUW ZEELAND" entered Port Phillip, securing at Station Pier at 0815K.

H.M.A.Ships "DOOMBA", "ORARA" and "DURRAWEEN" departed Port Phillip at 0854Z.

H.M.A.S. "SWAN" reported departure from Westernport at 0001Z, entering Port Phillip at 0236Z and securing at Port Melbourne.

September 28. War Signal Station, Wilson's Promontory, reported H.M.A.Ships "DOOMBA", "ORARA" and "DURRAWEEN" minesweeping east at 2042Z/27, west at 0054Z, and entering Waterloo Bay at 0645Z.

H.M.A.S. "BERYL II" departed Port Phillip at 2106Z/27, re-entering at 0708Z and anchoring off Portsea.

September 29. H.M.A.S. "WARREGO" entered Port Phillip at 1042Z and later anchored off Gellibrand.

September 30. H.M.A.S. "BERYL II" departed Port Phillip at 2109Z/29, re-entering at 0736Z.

H.M.A.S. "WARREGO" secured at Williamstown.

H.M.A.S. "DURRAWEEN" departed Waterloo Bay course south east and was later reported Minesweeping west.

Information was promulgated by Naval Board that an Admiralty message had been received that Naval Control Service Officers were to draw the attention of merchant ships to the fact that all merchant ships be properly darkened, and that this fact should be stressed at Convoy Conferences, and that all Masters, Neutrals in particular, should be warned that slackness in complying with this instruction would lead to their being excluded from convoys.

Naval Board reported new rendezvous for U.S.5A.

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SECRET

During the month of September the following Norwegian ships were cleared, Armed Anti-sabotage Guards not being considered necessary:-

"HERMION"	for Port Kembla
"HAV"	FOR Sydney
"BEAU"	for Hadjoe
"SKOTAAS"	for Balik Papan via Portland
"ELSA"	Botany Bay.

Usual "Q" and W.D.V. messages were received as were also Admiralty and Commander in Chiefs' advices regarding methods of routeing to and entering ports which had been mined, details of searched channels, navigation lights, buoys, etc.

During the month several vessels entering and/or leaving port Phillip did not follow the routeing instructions given as regards swept channels, and these cases were in all instances investigated by Naval Control Service Officer,

20th Minesweeping Flotilla carried out the usual programme of sweeps and searches, as did also Group 54 A.M/S.

Further Officers were drafted to the United Kingdom for disposal and indications are that this will continue for some time, particularly so with the rapid training of Anti-Submarine Officers and ratings also appointees under the R.N.V.R. scheme of Dominion enlistment.

Usual intelligence operations were continued and it was found that following a report from the Norwegian vessel M.V. "BRAMORA" two members of the crew, one Dutch and one Norwegian, had Nazi tendencies. Following an investigation both were interned.

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H.M.A.S. "LONSDALE".

NAVAL STAFF OFFICE, PORT MELBOURNE.

SECRET

WAR DIARY - AUGUST, 1940.

August 1. H.M.A.S. "GOORANGAI" departed Port Phillip at 2100Z/31st July, re-entering at 0730Z and anchoring off Portsea.

H.M.A.S. "WONGALA" from Sydney entered Port Phillip, securing alongside Nelson Pier, Williamstown, at 0425Z.

Information was received from Naval Board that subject to satisfactory completion of acceptance trials, H.M.A.S."WARREGO" would commission on the 22nd August. Details of working up programme were also given.

An Admiralty message promulgated by Naval Board was received drawing attention to the fact that a number of cases have recently come to notice which indicate insufficient care and attention being given to the routeing of merchant ships. Owing to the danger from enemy raiders now at large in the Atlantic and Indian Oceans, and a"U" boat operating in the Canaries-Cape Verde area, increased vigilance on the part of Naval Control Service Officers is required, and calls for the exercise of great care and imagination in giving of routes. This message was passed to the N.C.S.Officer, Port Phillip.

Senior Officer, 20th M/S Flotilla reported intended programme in company with H.M.A.S. "ORARA" for exercises and searching sweeps in Wilson's Promontory area.

A message from the Commander-in-Chief, East Indies, was received to the effect that no British or Norwegian ships were to be sailed for Madagascar or Reunion until further notice. This was passed to N.C.S.Officer for necessary action.

Information was received from the Naval Board that H.M.A.S. "MANOORA" was to come under the operational orders of F.O.C.A.S. on arrival of F.O.C.A.S. in H.M.A.S. "PERTH" at Sydney on 2nd August.

August 2. H.M.A.S. "YARRA" entered Port Phillip at 2035Z/1.

H.M.A.S. "GOORANGAI" which departed Port Phillip at 2104Z/1 requested corrections to standard compass as up to 9° deviation had been observed on fixed marks. Cards read Nil. This ship re-entered Port Phillip at 0615Z securing at Williamstown at 1000Z.

Naval Board message was received that ships proceeding to Eastern Mediterranean, Middle East, and Red Sea were now to be routed to Aden whence they would proceed in convoy. This message was passed to N.C.S.Officer.

Naval Board message was received that with regard to the arrangements made between the Government of Hong Kong and the Commonwealth Government for evacuation of approximately 3,000 British women and children to Australia, the Department of the Interior was in charge of arrangements regarding accommodation, in conjunction with the Housing Commission for Victoria. Assistance as far as practicable in this matter was requested. Copy of arrangements as regards evacuees was forwarded to N.C.S.Officer.

N.O.C.S. reported arrival in Sydney of H.M.A.S. "PERTH" flying the flag of F.O.C.A.S.

Information was received that the "INDROPOERA" bringing evacuees from Hong Kong to Australia sailed from Manilla on the 1st August.

The programme of Freightship "STRATHALLAN" was received.

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August 2. (Contd.) Senior Officer, 20th M/S Flotilla reported H.M.A.Ships "DOOMBA" and "ORARA" had proceeded at 1225Z. Port War Signal Station reported departure of thäss ships at 1528Z/2.

H.M.A.S. "YARRA" arrived Port Phillip at 1200Z. Relevant authorities being informed.

August 3. War Signal Station, Wilson's Promontory reported H.M.A.S."DOOMBA" and H.M.A.S. "ORARA" eastbound.

Staff Officer (Intelligence) Wellington reported a dangerous area due to mines is enclosed between Needles Point, Great Barrier Island, in a direction 273° to Saigon Rocks, then 000° for 18 miles thence 093° to a position 000° 18 miles from Needles Point Great Barrier Island. Staff Officer (Intelligence) Wellington also informed all authorities that the approaches to Colville Channel from the southern end of Great Barrier Island to the vicinity and to eastward of Curier Island were also dangerous due to mines, and that great care must be exercised in following route instructions. These messages were passed to N.C.S.Officer.

Admiralty message promulgated by Naval Board was received which directed that Reporting Officers at routeing ports were to destroy C.B.01671 Series forthwith. Reporting Officers Instructions Articles 82(2) B and C were cancelled. In future all Reporting Officers are to obtain from their nearest Naval Control Service Officer by signal full routeing instructions for vessels proceeding overseas. A.C.B.098A and B are still in force and Routeing Officers will continue to route vessels on the Australian Coast in accordance therewith.

August 4. The following Admiralty message received from Naval Board was passed to the N.C.S.Officer:-

"N.C.S.Officers should lose no opportunity of calling attention ~~to~~ of Ship Masters to the occasion when the degaussing coil should be energised, emphasising the necessity for this even when at anchor. It should also be pointed out to Masters of ships that safety from magnetic mines increases directly with the speed of the ship, depth of water and when on East and West courses."

August 5. H.M.A.S. "GOORANGAI" slipped and proceeded at 0800K, departing Port Phillip at L218Z, re-entering Port Phillip at 0710Z, anchoring off Portsea.

H.M.A.S.,"YARRA" reported intention of sailing at 2300Z/4.

War Signal Station, Wilson's Promontory reported H.M.A.Ships "DOOMBA" and "ORARA" had proceeded into Waterloo Bay.

August 6. H.M.A.S. "GOORANGAI" departed Port Phillip at 2100Z/5, re-entering Port Phillip at 0403Z anchoring off Queenscliff.

War Signal Station, Wilson's Promontory, reported H.M.A.Ships "DOOMBA" and "ORARA" had departed Waterloo Bay at 2345Z preparation being made for Minesweeping. Owing to bad weather these ships returned to Waterloo Bay.

Information was received that H.M.A.S. "ADELAIDE" departed Fremantle at 0037Z for Sydney.

A signal was received from Director of Naval Intelligence that the Staff Officer (Intelligence), Sydney, forwarded information that Mitsui, Bussan Kaisha were busy burning papers on 5th August, but information could not be given yet as to whether this was routine clearance or not. This signal evidently was a watch being placed upon any unusual movements of certain Japanese activities following the recent arrest in London of high placed Japanese commercial men.

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August 7. H.M.A.S. "GOORANGAI" departed Port Phillip at 2101Z/6, re-entering at 0653Z and anchoring off Portsea.

War Signal Station, Wilson's Promontory, reported H.M.A.S. "DOOMBA" minesweeping eastbound.

H.M.A.S. "ORARA" entered Port Phillip at 0625Z securing at Port Melbourne at 0908Z.

The Freightship "ULYSSES" outward bound for Durban passed Gellibrand at 0710Z.

Information was received from Naval Board that H.M.A.S."MANOORA" was to escort "STRATHALLAN" to Sunda Straits and then return to Fremantle. N.C.S.Officers were to route "STRTHALLAN" to next port of call when the Master was to be informed confidentially of escort arrangements to next port of call only, and not that an escort was not being provided from Sunda Straits to Singapore.

The ex Danish ship "WESTRALIA" entered Port Phillip at 1131Z and usual security measures, together with seaward patrol were arranged for this ship during her stay in port.

August 8. H.M.A.S. "DOOMBA" entered Port Phillip at 1704Z/7 securing at Port Melbourne at 2010Z/7.

H.M.A.S. "GOORANGAI" departed Port Phillip at 2340Z/7. re-entering Port Phillip at 0549Z and anchoring off Queenscliff.

Information was received from Admiralty to the effect that the latest German magnetic mines recovered had not a delayed action device other than 15 minute clock, and that it must therefore be assumed that mines can be laid with or without extended delay action and no period of safety above 15 minutes after laying can be relied upon.

Information was received that R.A.F.A. "KURUMBA" is to be sailed from Sydney on the 12th August, and will proceed to Williamstown to unload fuel oil, thence proceeding to Fremantle to arrive at that port by the 25th August.

Admiralty message was received to the effect that all Estonian Latvian and Lithuanian ships intercepted at sea are to be sent into a British port under armed guard.

Naval Board promulgated details of the numbers of Army and civilian dependents in the "AWATEA" and "JOHAN DE WITT", together with details of their disembarkation at various ports.

August 9. H.M.A.S. "GOORANGAI" departed Port Phillip at 2107Z/8, re-entering Port Phillip at 0648Z, anchoring off Queenscliff.

August 10. H.M.A.S. "GOORANGAI" departed Port Phillip at 2120Z/9 re-entering at 0657Z, anchoring off Queenscliff.

War Signal Station, Cape Otway, reported a Cruiser resumbling H.M.A.S. "ADELAIDE" eastward at 2215Z/9.

Commander-in-Chief, East Indies, forwarded a message saying that it is possible that enemy raider had entered the Indian Ocean from the Red Sea passing Perima at 2300Z/1st August. A full description of this ship was given,and also the possibility that if challenged it might answer as a Greek ship. It was possible the intention of this raider may be minelaying. This information was passed to N.C.S.Officer.

An Admiralty message was promulgated by Naval Board to the effect that raiders were known to attempt to jamb distress messages probably using two types of spark transmitters, one a quench gap spark and the other a Marconi 1½ K.W. spark. Instructions as to what should be done by Masters of merchant vessels in the event of jambing of distress signals were given. This signal was passed to N.C.S.O. for necessary action as regards informing Masters of ships

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August 10. H.M.A.S. "KOROWA" was to be sailed for Port Melbourne as convenient, Upon arrival H.M.A.S. "KOROWA" was to join Auxiliary M/S Group 58 which was for service in Bass Strait pased on Port Phillip under the orders of the Senior Officer, 20th M.S.F. Information was also received that after completion of working up practices and reaching a satisfactory Minesweeping standard, H.M.A.S. "ALFIE CAM" was to be sailed for Fremantle and on arrival was to join Auxiliary M/S Group 66. Similarly H.M.A.S. "DURRAWEEN" was to be sailed for Port Melbourne and on arrival join Auxiliary M/S Group 58.

August 11. Commodore in Charge, Sydney, reported departure for Melbourne of H.M.A.S. "MANOORA" escorting Freightship "STRATHALLAN" at 0720Z.

August 12. "STRATHALLAN" entered Port Phillip 1914Z/11, H.M.A.S. "MANOORA" entering at 2001Z/11, securing at Port Melbourne 2349Z/11.

H.M.A.S. "GOORANGAI" departed Port Phillip 2137Z/11 re-entering at 0710Z and anchoring off Queenscliff.

Commodore in Charge, Sydney, advised arrival of H.M.A.S. "ADELAIDE" at Sydney at 0252Z.

General plan of the programme of U.S.4 was received from Naval Board.

August 13. H.M.A.S. "GOORANGAI" departed Port Phillip 2192Z/12 re-entering at 0639Z, anchoring at Portsea.

H.M.A.S. "YARRA" departed Williamstown 0815K for exercises in Port Phillip.

Information was received from Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean Station, regarding details of Italian mines recently washed ashore in Alexandria. Information was also given as to how these mines could be rendered safe.

H.M.A.S. "ORARA" departed Port Melbourne at 0330Z for exercises in Port Phillip.

Freightship "STRATHALLAN" departed Port Melbourne 0545Z departing Port Phillip at 0846Z.

H.M.A.S. "MANOORA" departed Port Melbourne at 0330Z departing Port Phillip at 0715Z.

Dutch ship "INDROPOERA" departed Sydney for Melbourne 0851Z with evacuees for discharge at Melbourne.

Information was received from Fremantle that H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA" departed for Sydney at 0830Z.

August 14. H.M.A.S. "GOORANGAI"departed Port Phillip 2127Z/13, re-entering at 0725Z, anchoring off Queenscliff.

August 15. H.M.A.S. "MANOORA" and Freightship "STRATHALLAN" arrived in Adelaide.

H.M.A.S. "GOORANGAI" departed Port Phillip 2039Z/14, re-entering at 0604Z, anchoring off Portsea.

R.A.F.A. "KURUMBA" entered Port Phillip at 2244Z/14 and proceeded to Williamstown to discharge fuel oil.

Dutch ship "INDROPOERA" entered Port Phillip at 0245Z. Information was received from Extended Defence Officer that two enemy Nationals were aboard this ship, and this information was passed to Staff Officer (Intelligence) for investigation.

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August 15. N.O.C.S. reported that British ship "AWATEA" departed Sydney for Melbourne with evacuees.

August 16. H.M.A.S. "GOORANGAI" departed Port Phillip 2041Z/15, re-entering at 0555Z, securing at Williamstown 0930Z.

Dutch ship "INDROPOERA" passed Gellibrand from Port Melbourne to Sydney at 2135Z/15.

Instructions were received that S.C.M.9 was not to be used until further notice, all instructions being obtained from Naval Board before sailing ships direct to Auckland.

War Signal Station, Wilson's Promontory, reported H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA" east.

R.A.F.A. "KURUMBA" departed Williamstown at 0515Z, departing Port Phillip 0922Z, E.T.A. Fremantle being 25th August.

August 17. "AWATEA" with evacuees onboard entered Port Phillip for Bay anchorage at 1425Z/16, securing Port Melbourne 2330Z/16.

H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA" arrived Sydney.

H.M.A.S. "YARRA" reported intention to sail at 0400Z for Fremantle. This ship departed Port Phillip at 0642Z.

British ship "AWATEA" passed Gellibrand at 0835Z departing Port Phillip 1056Z for Sydney.

Naval Board message was received that following message from Sydney radio reported the sighting of three black spherical shaped objects about 2'4" diameter floating 2' to 3' apart, one with spike about 8" in length, in a position 34°6' south Longitude 151°34'30"E. Instructions were given that ships were to be routed well clear to the East and North of the position given. Commodore in Charge, Sydney, was to report as early as possible that alternative swept channel should be brought into force and proposed local routeing.

August 18. H.M.A. Ships "ORARA" and "DOOMBA" departed Port Melbourne 1500Z/17, departing Port Phillip at 1741Z/17. These ships were later reported ~~xx~~ by War Signal Station, Wilson's Promontory being eastbound and later minesweeping west.

Instructions were received from Naval Board that where the name of any prisoner taken would take more than 3 weeks to reach Admiralty by mail, name should be signalled. It was preferable that names of ranks and ratings be given in the Native tongue. The policy regarding German and Italian U. boats destroyed is not to publish names of survivors until the date on which U. boats would have returned to their bases. Commanders in Chief abroad should suggest the date for release of prisoners' names, and Admiralty would then arrange for broadcast and official communication to German or Italian Governments. Letters home written by prisoners from U. boats should not be forwarded before the date abovementioned.

A message from Naval Board stated that the following had been received from Sydney radio:-
""TURANAKI" latitude 33°59' S. longitude 151°33'E. passed floating object resembling a mine."

H.M.A.S. "DOOMBA" and H.M.A.S. "ORARA" which were sweeping off Cape Otway owing to the possibility of mines having been laid were ordered to return to Melbourne.

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August 18. The following report by the Master of S.S. "CALEDON" was received from N.C.S.O.:
" On Thursday 15th August at 1500K in latitude 35°15' East the Chief Engineer and the Third Engineer sighted distinct traces of oil on the water accompanied by a swirl. Shortly afterwards the Chief Engineer saw the conning tower and periscope of a submarine distant about ¾ mile. This was not seen by the Third Engineer. Report was not made to the Master until the following morning as the Engineer was afraid of ridicule."
The above information was immediately forwarded to Naval Board.

August 19. H.M.A.S. "ORARA" with H.M.A.S. "DOOMBA" in company entered Port Phillip at 1733Z/18, securing at Port Melbourne at 2100Z/18.

H.M.A.S. "GOORANGAI" slipped and proceeded to sea from Williamstown at 2210Z/18, departing Port Phillip at 0157Z, re-entering at 0714Z and anchoring off Queenscliff.

H.M.A.S. "BERYL II" docked in Floating Dock, Hobson's Bay Coy., Williamstown, for refit and defect repairs.

Naval Board promulgated the information to the effect that shortage of shipping beyond Bombay may cause unavoidable delay in sailing dates of U.S.4. The extent of possible delay, and whether U.S.5 dates will be affected, is not yet known, but this information will be forwarded as soon as possible. In the meantime preparations for original departure dates of U.S.4 and U.S.5 are to be continued.

August 20. H.M.A.S. "GOORANGAI" departed Port Phillip at 2100Z/19, re-entering at 0802Z, anchoring off Queenscliff.

Information was received from Chief Examining Officer that four German N ationals and one Hungarian were included in the crew of the American ship "MARIPOSA".

Naval Board promulgated the information that ships were not to sail for New Zealand until further orders.

The following information is promulgated by Naval Board that the following message was received from "TURAKINI":
"R.R.R.R. (surface raider) 38°27' South, 167°35' East, gunned 0730½".
Immediate steps were taken by the despatch of planes, ships etc., in an endeavour to locate the raider.

Naval Board intimated that the first draft of R.N.V.R. Sub-Lieutenants recruited under the Admiralty Yachtsmen scheme would depart from Melbourne on 14th September, Victorian quota under the enrolment being 4 Officers, and 15 Ordinary Seaman as potential Officers. Similar drafting will also take place in other States, and will most likely be continued monthly.

August 21. H.M.A.S. "GOORANGAI" departed Port Phillip at 2045Z/20, re-entering at 0754Z.

Information was given as regards searched channels Brisbane area.

Latest Admiralty Intelligence message states that no enemy war-ships are at large but shipping is to be warned that a raider is in the Tasman Sea. Ships are to be ordered to report immediately any suspicious ship sighted. This information was passed to N.C.S.O. to warn Masters of ships. This information was promulgated following signal received from the "TURAKINI".

August 22. H.M.A.S. "GOORANGAI" departed Port Phillip at 2100Z/21, re-entering at 0813Z.

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August 22. The information previously given regarding thips not being sailed to New Zealand has now been negatived.

H.M.A.S. "BERYL II" left Hobson's Bay Dock and is now secured alongside pier at Williamstown.

August 23. H.M.A.S. "GOORANGAI" departed Port Phillip at 2100Z/22, re-entering at 0748Z and anchoring off Queenscliff.

August 24. H.M.A.S. "GOORANGAI" departed Port Phillip at 2106Z/23, re-entering at 0619Z, anchoring off Queenscliff, later moving anchorage off Portsea.

War Signal Station, Gabo Island, confirmed that H.M.S."RODNEY" was off Gabo Island at 1452Z/23.

Details were given by Naval Board ~~of~~ to increase the security of messages in Naval cypher or code.

Advice was received from Western Australia that R.A.F.A. "KURUMBA" arrived at Fremantle.

Naval Board promulgated information to the effect that the position of personnel who were forced to land in the sea from British aircraft may be indicated to aircraft or surface craft by a distinguishing green patch of water by smoke float or by smoke candle. Dinghies from British aircraft are painted yellow and may emit a red smoke. Crew of bomber aircraft may be wearing yellow skull caps. This information was forwarded to N.C.S.

August 25. The charter of the M.V. "ZEALANDIA" which originally was made for bringing evacuees from Hong Kong to Sydney, has been extended, and this vessel will be required to sail from Sydney for Darwin about 31st August with a number of road constructors and personnel, together with road material, stores, and equipment. Details were also given as regards movements of this ship before eventually leaving Sydney for Darwin.

August 26. H.M.A.S. "GOORANGAI" departed Port Phillip at 2108Z/25, re-entering at 0611Z.

August 27. H.M.A.S. "GOORANGAI" departed Port Phillip 2100Z/26, re-entering at 0633Z and anchoring off Queenscliff.

Staff Officer (Intelligence) Colombo reported that floating mines had been reported in the Gulf of Aden, and that these presumably had broken grip from Italian Red Sea mine fields. This information was passed to N.C.S.

M.V. "ZEALANDIA" with evacuees for discharge at Melbourne entered Port Phillip at 2043Z/26.

Senior Officer, 20th M.S.F., reported that H.M.A.S"DOOMBA" with H.M.A.S. "ORARA" in company intended to proceed at 0400Z to Wilson's Promontory area. These ships departed Port Melbourne at 0420Z, departing Port Phillip at 0740Z and were reported by War Signal Station, Wilson's Promontory, eastward at 1935Z.

H.M.S. "CHILLIES" reported her E.T.A. 0530K/1st September.

M.V. "ZEALANDIA" departed for Sydney.

N.O.C.S. reported intention to sail H.M.A.S. "DURRAWEEN" for Melbourne on Friday, 30th August.

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August 28. H.M.A.S. "GOORANGAI" departed Port Phillip at 2109Z/27, re-entering at 0635Z and anchoring off Queenscliff.

War Signal Station, Wilson's Promontory, reported H.M.A.S. "DOOMBA" and H.M.A.S. "ORARA" minesweeping west at 0045Z, eastbound at 0550Z and anchored in Waterloo Bay at 0859Z.

Naval Board reported that "BUNERA" with 2343 German and 200 Italian Internees left Fremantle 27th August and was due at Melbourne a.m. 3rd September, where 550 internees would disembark. Details followed as regards necessary arrangements for disembarkation.
This information was forwarded to Senior Sea Transport Officer and N.C.S. Officer.

August 29. War Signal Station, Wilson's Promontory, reported H.M.A.S. "DOOMBA" and H.M.A.S. "ORARA" minesweeping east at 2048Z/28, west at 0050Z, east at 0540Z and anchored in Waterlook Bay at 0818Z.

H.M.A.S. "GOORANGAI" departed Port Phillip at 2100Z/28, re-entering at 0610Z and anchoring off Queenscliff.

Recent information received by Naval Board was promulgated, to the effect that any ship going to French Colonial Ports may be seized if not in possession of clearance issued by Germany through French Admiralty. Instructions were therefore given that British and Allied ships are not to call at any French port, including those in New Caledonia, until further orders. Ships may proceed to New Hebrides whilst French ships normally trading between Australia and New Caledonia may continue to be sailed. French ships, however, are not to be allowed to sail from Australian ports for ports outside the Australia Station. This information was passed to N.C.S. for necessary action.

August 30. H.M.A.S. "GOORANGAI" departed Port Phillip at 1959Z/29, re-entering at 0532Z, departing for Melbourne at 0607Z, securing alongisde at Williamstown at 0906Z.

War Signal Station, Wilson's Promontory reported H.M.A.S. "DOOMBA" and H.M.A.S."ORARA" east at 2020Z/29, west at 0115Z anchoring in Waterloo Bay at 0930Z.

N.O.C.S. reported H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA" escorting T.I had left Sydney 29th August for pre-arranged rendezvous.

August 31. War Signal Station, Wilson's Promontory, reported H.M.A.S. "DOOMBA" and H.M.A.S. "ORARA" minesweeping east at 2015Z/30, west at 2330Z/30. These ships entered port Phillip at 1344Z, securing at Port Melbourne at 1708Z.

An Admiralty report stated that it was possible that enemy raiders may be flying the white ensign and using boarding parties in British uniforms. Full instructions as regards dealing with this possibility were given.

E.T.A. from H.M.S."ACHILLIES" received.

War Signal Station, Wilson's Promontory, reported that a convoy of four ships passed, escorted by one 6" and one 8" cruiser.

H.M.S. "ACHILLIES" entered Port Phillip at 0735Z, securing at Port Melbourne at 1020Z. Arrangements were made for the immediate supply of Australian currency to this ship.

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GENERAL : During the month of August the following Norwegian ships were cleared, Armed Anti-sabotage Guards not being considered necessary:-

"SKOTAAS"	for	Pladjoe
"TALABOT"	"	Panama
"ALCIDES"	"	Sydney
"VITO"	"	Sydney
"TRITON"	"	Panama.

Usual "Q" and W.D.V. messages were received as were also Admiralty and Commander-in-Chiefs' advices regarding methods of routeing to and entering ports which had been mined, details of searched channels, navigation lights, buoys, etc.

During the month several vessels entering and/or leaving port Phillip did not follow the routeing instructions given as regards swept channels, and these cases were in all instances investigated by Naval Control Service Officer.

20th Minesweeping Flotilla carried out the usual programme of sweeps and searches.

Further Officers were drafted to the United Kingdom for disposal and indications are that this will continue for some time, particularly so with the rapid training of Anti-Submarine Officers and ratings also appointees under the R.N.V.R. scheme of Dominion enlistment.

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H.M.A.S. "CERBERUS III".

NAVAL STAFF OFFICE, PORT MELBOURNE.

WAR DIARY - JULY, 1940.

July 1 — War Signal Station, Wilson's Promontory, reported that H.M.S. "HECTOR" proceeded West at 1627Z.

H.M.A.S. "BERYL II" slipped at Williamstown at 0800K, departing Port Phillip at 0152Z, re-entering at 0655Z, anchoring off Queenscliff at 0718Z.

An Aden message received stated that in view of representations made and as the majority of British merchant ships have now been degaussed, the practice of showing distinguishing marks on demagnetised vessels is to be discontinued, and that distinguishing marks are to be painted out at the first opportunity. N.C.S.O. and D.E.M.S. were advised accordingly.

H.M.S. "HECTOR" entered Port Phillip at 0057Z, anchoring off Queenscliff. H.M.S. "HECTOR" landed Junior Engineer for an immediate operation. An ambulance had already been arranged and the patient was taken to Geelong Hospital. In the meantime a relief had been arranged through the Blue Funnel Line Coy. the relieving Engineer to be embarked at Fremantle, and H.M.S. "HECTOR" then departed Port Phillip at 0805Z/1.
H.M.S. "HECTOR" expected to arrive at Fremantle at 0600Z/7th July, and would require oil fuel and water on arrival.

H.M.A.S. "PERTH" flying flag of F.O.C.A.S. arrived Sydney at 0120Z.

July 2 — H.M.A.S. "BERYL II" weighed anchor at 2030Z/1, departed Port Phillip at 2052Z/1, re-entering at 0750Z.

A request for the supply of lubricating oil for Norwegian Ships "MARIDAL" and "O.A.Knudsen" was approved by the Naval Board.

War Signal Station, Wilson's Promontory, reported that H.M.A. Ships "SWAN" and "DOOMBA" were minesweeping on a course 270° bearing 180° distant 3 miles. A later report states that the vessels were proceeding into Waterloo Bay at 0842Z.

July 3 — H.M.A.S. "BERYL II" weighed anchor at 2030Z, departing Port Phillip at 2047Z, re-entering at 0738Z, and anchoring off Queenscliff at 0810Z.

War Signal Station, Wilson's Promontory, reported that H.M.A.S. "DOOMBA" and H.M.A.S. "SWAN" departed from Waterloo Bay at 2102Z, and were minesweeping westbound at 2256Z.

Naval Board advise that the Orient Liner "ORONTES" will be used as a freight ship to convoy 270 Navy, 169 Army, and 423 Air Force personnel overseas. "ORONTES" will leave Sydney about the 13th July, arriving Melbourne 16th July, and 18th July Adelaide Fremantle 22nd July, and Singapore 28th July.

Naval Board advise the granting of Marriage Allowance to Officers, payable under certain conditions.

Details were received from Aden of the manner of reporting and method of classifying merchant vessels falling under suspicion, together with whom and when reports should be made. A complete classified up to date list of ships already under suspicion was also received. All relevant authorities were notified.

July 4 — H.M.A.S. "BERYL II" departed Port Phillip at 2105Z, re-entering at 0645Z, anchoring off Queenscliff at 0720Z.

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July 4 — Naval Board forwarded details of Italian "U" boat movements, and possible sinking or putting out of action of same.

N.C.S. was instructed to draw attention to D.M.S.Part 1, Article 213 to 216, emphasising the use of smoke floats for facilitating escape from "U" or "E" boats, and/or screening the disposal of a convoy which may be ordered to scatter.

Naval Board gave instructions that an Armed Guard was to be placed onboard the Norwegian vessel "BRATTDAL" sailing from Melbourne for Singapore to ensure that she is navigated to destination. Naval Guard was to be incorporated with R.A.A.F. personnel embarking, R.A.A.F. personnel being under the Naval Guard orders.

An Aden message was received that all British and Allied Merchant ships were to be instructed to leave all French Ports as soon as possible, disregarding instructions given by French Authorities. This was followed with a message that the French Government had issued an order to the effect that all British ships and aircraft were forbidden to approach within 20 miles of any French territory under penalty of being fired upon without warning. N.C.S. was advised accordingly.

H.M.A.S. "DOOMBA" and H.M.A.S. "SWAN" entered Port Phillip at 1220Z, and secured Port Melbourne at 1525Z.

July 5 — H.M.A.S. "BERYL II" departed Port Phillip 2052Z/4, re-entering at 0723Z, and anchoring off Queenscliff at 0747Z.

An intercepted signal from French Stations, which Aden instructed was not to be obeyed, was to the effect that all French merchant ships or ships under Charter to the French Government were ordered to make for French ports under French control or to a port or state still neutral and to await orders from French Admiralty.

N.C.S.O. was informed that Masters of ships sailing were to be impressed with the necessity of care in regard to their movements and routeing, as it has been found that serious leakages in certain ports had been discovered.

Naval Board confirmed details of freight ship "ORONTES" movements. Details were also given of "STRATHALLAN" possible movements and escort.

July 6 — H.M.A.S. "BERYL II" departed Port Phillip at 2120Z/5, re-entering at 0711Z, anchoring off Queenscliff.

July 8 — H.M.A.S. "BERYL II" departed Port Phillip at 2049Z/7, re-entering Port Phillip at 0753Z, securing at Williamstown at 1205Z.

July 10 — H.M.A.S. "BERYL II" slipped 2205Z/9, departing Port Phillip at 0159Z, re-entering at 0211Z, anchoring off Portsea at 0245Z. Rough weather did not permit of programme being carried out.

Arrangements were instituted for seaward patrol upon the arrival of the freight ship "ORONTES" which for security measures was to be regarded as a transport.

July 11 — Information was received from Naval Board that H.M.A.S."YARRA" will complete refit on 27th July, and will then carry out gunnery working up practice. H.M.A.S. "YARRA" will not be required for minesweeping operations until completion of above, except in the case of an emergency.

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July 11 — Amended programme of freight ship "ORONTES" was received from Naval Board, together with details of method of routeing.

H.M.A.S. "BERYL II" again reported inability to carry out programme as weather was unsuitable.

F.O.C.A.S. reported that H.M.A.S. "YARRA" intended arriving Port Phillip 31st July to carry out sub and full calibre firings.

H.M.A.Ships "SWAN" and "DOOMBA" departed Port Phillip at 0905Z for Wilson's Promontory area.

July 12 — H.M.A.S. "BERYL II" departed Port Phillip at 2142Z/11, re-entering Port Phillip at 0527Z, and securing at Williamstown at 0915Z.

Information was received from Dockyard that H.M.A.S."GOORANGAI" will complete refit on Saturday, 13th July, and would resume searching sweeps on the 15th July. Proposals were then made to refit H.M.A.S. "BERYL II" to commence 22nd July.

Information was received that upon completion of fitting out H.M.A.S. "WONGALA" would be sailed from Sydney for Adelaide to replace the "WARRAWEE", an Examination Vessel.

H.M.A.S. "SWAN" is to be taken in hand for long refit as soon after completion of H.M.A.S. "YARRA" as possible.

H.M.A.Ships "SWAN" and "DOOMBA" proceeded into Waterloo Bay at 1112Z.

July 13. — H.M.A.Ships "SWAN" and "DOOMBA" westbound 2248Z/12. A later report was received that these ships were proceeding into Waterloo Bay at 0923Z.

F.O.C.A.S. reported that H.M.A.S. "PERTH" intended to arrive at Melbourne Tuesday, 16th July.

July 15 — War Signal Station, Wilson's Promontory, reported that H.M.A.S. "SWAN" departed westbound, H.M.A.S. "DOOMBA" southward and eastward from Waterloo Bay; both returned to Waterloo Bay at 0832Z.

H.M.A.Ships"BERYL II" and "GOORANGAI" slipped and proceeded at 0800K, H.M.A.S. "BERYL II" departing Port Phillip at 0416Z, re-entering at 0700Z.

Admiralty advise that in future no neutral vessels are to be sailed in convoy, if Masters, Chief Officer, Chief Engineer or W/T Operator are of enemy nationality.

R.A.F.A. "REMO" departed Fremantle for Melbourne.

Norwegian vessel "BRATTDAL" departed Port Phillip at 0732Z for Singapore with anti-sabotage guard onboard.

July 16 — H.M.A.Ships "SWAN" and "DOOMBA" departed Waterloo Bay at 2058Z/15. War Signal Station, Wilson's Promontory later reported these ships minesweeping westbound, thence easthound.

H.M.A.Ships "BERYL II" and "GOORANGAI" departed Port Phillip at 0032Z. H.M.A.S. "GOORANGAI" was later ordered to proceed to Williamstown, and H.M.A.S. "BERYL II" to continue sweeping. H.M.A.S. "GOORANGAI" entered Port Phillip at 0112Z, securing at Williamstown at 0615Z.

H.M.A.S. "BERYL II" re-entered Port Phillip at 0643Z, anchoring off Portsea at 0810Z.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

July 16 War Signal Station, Wilson's Promontory, reported at 1034Z a Man-of-War westbound, with large passenger ship in company. This proved to be H.M.A.S. "PERTH" and Freight ship "ORONTES".

July 17 H.M.A.S. "PERTH" entered Port Phillip at 1650Z, "ORONTES" at 1700Z. H.M.A.Ships "DOOMBA" and "SWAN" entered at 1738Z.

Permission was given by Naval Board that Trade between British Allied and French ships may be resumed between ports on the Australia station, and French ports in Indo China.

H.M.A.S. "BERYL II" departed Port Phillip at 2356Z/16, re-entering at 0739Z.

July 18 H.M.A.S. "BERYL II" departed for Port Phillip at 2118Z/17. A signal was then received from this ship stating that she would weigh anchor at Queenscliff until weather conditions were more favourable for sweeping. H.M.A.S. "BERYL II" later departed from Port Phillip at 0210Z, re-entering Port Phillip at 0800Z.

A communication was received from Naval Board to the effect that in view of the water situation at Freetown, and the fact that ships arriving at Capetown fully laden cannot take in sufficient water to reach the United Kingdom, ships concerned from Australian ports are to be told to sacrifice cargo if they can thereby take sufficient water at Capetown to avoid replenishing at Freetown. This was passed to N.C.S. for necessary action.

F.O.C.A.S. reported that H.M.A.S. "PERTH" intended to carry out sub calibre firings in Port Phillip on Monday, 29th July.

H.M.A.S. "PERTH" and Freight ship "ORONTES" departed Port Melbourne at 0700Z for Adelaide, departing Port Phillip at 1040Z.

Naval Board reported that Masters of vessels were to be informed confidentially that a probable raider (Mine laying) may be operating in the Pacific Ocean. Details of the raider were also given. This was passed to N.C.S. for necessary action.

July 19 H.M.A.S. "BERYL II" reported that she was anchoring at Queenscliff to effect repairs to steering gear which had jambed twice today, and expected to effect repairs in one hour's time. These were fuly completed and H.M.A.S."BERYL II" proceeded at 0840K, departing Port Phillip at 2300Z/18, re-entering Port Phillip at 0719Z.

Naval Board promulgated information received from a French source that six submarines were recently completed at Vladivostock all of which were manned by Germans, and would shortly cruise to Mariana and Caroline Islands. Necessary classification of these submarines was also given.

July 20 H.M.A.S. "BERYL II" departed Port Phillip at 2100Z/19, re-entering at 0624Z.

Naval Board advise that the following vessels are being taken up and fitted out - "DURAWEEN", "ALFIE CAM", "GOONAMBEE" and "SAMUEL BENBOW" as Auxiliary Minesweepers, and "YAMORA", "KYBRA", "WYRALLA" as Auxiliary A/s vessels.

Report received from Adelaide states the arrival at that port of H.M.A.S. "PERTH" and Freight ship "ORONTES".

Naval Board advise that the Oiler R.A.F.A."KURUMBA" left Fremantle on the 19th July for Sydney.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

July 21 — Navycirc received giving information from C.O.I.C. Singapore that an enemy raider or "U" boat was believed to have shelled the "CITY OF BAGDAD" on the 11th July, latitude being given.

The importance of the immediate retransmission of distress messages being essential was stressed by an Admiralty message owing to the presence of disguised enemy merchant ship raiders in the Atlantic and Indian Oceans being suspected.

July 22 — R.A.F.A. "REMO" entered Port Phillip at 2036Z/21, arriving at Port Melbourne at 0200Z.

H.M.A.S. "BERYL II" departed Port Phillip at 2100Z/21, re-entering Port Phillip at 0740Z.

Navycirc stated that information has been received from the Admiralty that two or more surface raiders are at large, and that it was important that Reporting Officers be warned to be on the alert for news or indication of these vessels and movements of possible supply ships and tankers. All A.R.Os. were immediately informed.

R.A.F.A. "REMO" was to be sailed for Sydney and upon arrival C.C.S. was requested to arrange for "REMO" to be paid off at the earliest opportunity, whereupon Donald Hamilton, Melbourne Agents, for this vessel, would arrange for crew to replace Naval crew and also to assume responsibility for crew and cargo.

Senior Officer, 20th Minesweeping Flotilla, reportedhis intended programme.

July 23 — H.M.A.S. "BERYL II" departed Port Phillip at 2117Z/22, re-entering at 0608Z, anchoring off Queenscliff at 0630Z.

H.M.A.Ships "SWAN" and "DOOMBA" departed Port Melbourne at 0010Z and H.M.A.S. "SWAN" later departed Port Phillip at 0414Z.

R.A.F.A. "REMO" departed Port Phillip at 0104Z for Sydney.

Navycirc received stating that German raider was reported in West Indies on 13th July, full description of the raider being given, together with armament carried.

The following instructions were received from Admiralty:-

"N.C.S.Os. are not to route ships beyond the pilot cutter unless commanded by a British Master and are to require all others to take a pilot".

Naval Board information was received to the effect that it was probable that "MANOORA" would be required to escort A.I.F. Freightship "STRATHALLAN", also giving "MANOORA's" possible programme.

July 24 — H.M.A.S. "BERYL II" departed Port Phillip at 2231Z/23, re-entering Port Phillip at 0535Z, securing at Williamstown 0955Z.

A censorship report from C.O.I.S. states that Captain Postema of the Dutch ship "GENOTA" was definitely pro-Nazi. This information was passed to S.O.(I) and N.C.S. for information should this Captain or vessel arrive in Australian ports.

N.O.C.S. reported departure of H.M.A.S. "ORARA" for Port Phillip, E.T.A. being 26th July.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

July 25 — H.M.A.S. "DOOMBA" departed Port Phillip at 2010z/24, re-entering at 1022Z.

Naval Board confirm that "MANOORA" would be required to escort "STRATHALLAN", "STRATHALLAN" leaving Sydney Saturday 10th August, and that a further amended programme would be unlikely.

Information received from South Australia that H.M.A.S. "PERTH" is expected to arrive at Melbourne on 27th July.

July 26 — H.M.A.S. "BERYL II" secured at Williamstown to commence a refit.

H.M.A.S. "GOORANGAI" departed Port Phillip at 0210Z, re-entering at 0705Z, anchoring off Portsea at 0745Z.

July 27 — H.M.A.S. "ORARA" entered Port Phillip at 1725Z/26, securing Port Melbourne at 2100Z/26.

H.M.A.S. "GOORANGAI" departed Port Phillip at 2113Z/26, re-entering at 0012Z.

Navycirc was received stating that particular care was to be exercised in the acceptance of bona fides of any visiting or inspecting personnel at any ship or establishment, unless their arrival has been previously announned, or that they can be identified from personal knowledge, owing to the fact that a civilian posing as a Naval Officer on a tour of inspection recently tried to gain admission to a Naval establishment.

H.M.A.S. "PERTH " entered Port Phillip at 0330z.

July 28. — Arrangements were made for a tug and pattern VI target to be in fixed position for sub calibre firings by H.M.A.S. "PERTH".

F.O.C.A.S. reported that R.A.C.A.S. and staff would embark on H.M.A.S. "DOOMBA" at 0900K 30th July. H.M.A.Ships "DOOMBA" and "ORARA" were to be ready to proceed at this time. On completion of inspection R.A.C.A.S. would transfer to H.M.A.S. "PERTH" and H.M.A.Ships "DOOMBA" and "ORARA" would act as Torpedo Targets. Subsequently H.M.A.S."ORARA" would be taken in tow by H.M.A.S. "PERTH".

H.M.A.S. "GOORANGAI" had completed basin trials and slipped at 1210K, anchoring off Queenscliff at 0600Z.

Admiralty report stated the urgent need for economy in water was to be impressed upon Masters of ships calling at Freetown. This was particularly important in the case of large passenger vessels. N.C.S.O. was advised for necessary action.

Navycirc received promulgating information from Admiralty to the effect that owing to enemy raiders being at large new instructions were to be brought into force as regards W/T watch. Details of the new instructions were given.

July 29 — H.M.A.S. "GOORANGAI" departed Port Phillip 2106Z/28,re-entering at 0656Z.

N.O.C.S. reported the arrival of R.A.F.A. "KURUMBA".

War Signal Station, Cape Otway, reported that an unidentified steam M/S trawler was anchored in Apollo Bay. This was later identified as H.M.A.S."WONGALA" whose engine was disabled. Temporary repairs were being effected to enable the ship to proceed to Williamstown for completion of repairs. Details of same were reported to Adelaide and Sydney.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

July 29. Message from C.in.C. Mediterranean gave details of the advice of incendary bombs being used by the enemy, and the methods of counteracting the same to reduce their effect to a minimum

July 30 H.M.A.S. "GOORANGAI" departed Port Phillip at 2255Z/29, re-entering at 0823Z, anchoring off Queenscliff at 0850Z.

July 31 H.M.A.S. "GOORANGAI" departed Port Phillip at 2100Z/30, re-entering at 0524Z, anchoring off Queenscliff at 0548Z.

Naval Board gave information as regards arrangements made between the Government of Hong Kong and the Commonwealth of Government for the evacuation of approximately 3000 British women and children to Australia.

N.O.C.S. reported that R.A.F.A. "REMO" paid off today.

H.M.A.S. "PERTH" departed Port Phillip at 0516Z.

Naval Board reported that S.S. "WESTRALIA" which was loading Defence stores at Sydney and later at Melbourne is to be treated as a transport for security measures. N.C.S. was informed accordingly.

GENERAL: During the month of July the following Norwegian ships were cleared, Armed Anti-sabotage Guards not being considered necessary except in the case of Brattdal:-

Maridal	for	Port Kembla
O.A.Knudsen	"	Sydney
Alcides	"	Hobart
Elsa	"	Port Adelaide
Anders Jahre	"	Palembang
Brattdal	"	Singapore
Gooiken	"	Hong Kong
Inneroy	"	Singapore
Strix	"	Sydney

Usual "Q" and W.D.V. messages were received as were also Admiralty and Commander in Chief's advices regarding methods of routeing to and entering ports which had been mined, details of searched channels, navigation lights, buoys, etc.

During the month several vessels entering and/or leaving Port Phillip did not follow the routeing instructions given as regards swept channels, and these cases were in all instances investigated by Naval Control Service Officer.

20th Minesweeping Flotilla carried out the usual programme of sweeps and searches.

Further Officers were drafted to the United Kingdom for disposal and indications are that this will continue for some time, particularly so with the rapid training of Anti-Submarine Officers and ratings also appointees under the R.N.V.R. scheme of Dominion enlistment.

-1 AUG P.M.

INIT. DWW

TELEPHONE No.
MX.[illegible]241.

Commonwealth of Australia

Department of ~~Defence~~ the Navy

DEPT. OF NAVY
589/201/779.
CONFIDENTIAL

REPLY PLEASE QUOTE

No. C.11/1/80

NAVAL STAFF OFFICE
Port Melbourne, S.C.7.
31st July, 1940.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Secretary,
Naval Board,
Navy Office,
MELBOURNE.

WAR DIARY - JUNE 1940 - H.M.A.S. "CERBERUS 111"

Submitted herewith for the information of the Naval Board, in compliance with instructions contained in the Board's confidential memorandum No. 589/201/765 of 10th February, 1940, is the War Diary of H.M.A.S.."CERBERUS 111" for the month of June, 1940.

Commander, R.A.N.
District Naval Officer, Victoria.

Jan 2/8

Jn 3/8

a.c.p.s.

D.N.T.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

H.M.A.S. "CERBERUS 111"

NAVAL STAFF OFFICE, PORT MELBOURNE

WAR DIARY - JUNE, 1940.

June 1st — H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA" was sighted and identified by Port War Signal Station, and entered Port Phillip at 1846Z, securing at Port Melbourne 2155Z, after requesting supply of oil fuel.

Admiralty reported that German sabotage "Charges" had been found in Merchant ships, at the same time giving a full description of the same, and methods of using. Information was passed to Naval Control Service Officer for passing to all Merchant ships for safety measures.

Staff Officer (Intelligence), Colombo, reported on Aden searched channels, giving details of those to be brought into force in the event of War with Italy, but the information given was not to be divulged until actual outbreak of War with Italy.

Naval Board reports that F.O.C.A.S. is to sail H.M.A. Ships "CANBERRA" and "PERTH" on 4th June for Sydney, where H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA" is to be taken in hand for 14 days' refit and installation of degaussing coils. Refit of H.M.A. Ships "YARRA" and "ORARA" will consequently be delayed.

June 2nd — Naval Board report that Belgian ships are now being allowed to proceed normally.

June 3rd — Navycirc 890F reports that Admiralty advised all Commodores-in-Charge, Flag Officers and Naval Officers-in-Charge abroad that, when berthing Allied and neutral vessels, care is to be taken that they are not to be placed near any point of vital importance if it can be avoided.

Information was also given of possible Italian methods of blocking ports and suggested methods of overcoming the same.

Advice was received from the Captain on Staff, Singapore, of the re-naming of ex-German ships in Dutch East Indies.

H.M.A.S. "PERTH" advised that she intended slipping at 0900K 4th June, and would carry out high angle firings in Port Phillip. Tug arrangements were made accordingly.

Naval Board advise that D.E.M.S. "DOMINION MONARCH" is to.repair degaussing equipment upon arrival in Sydney on 7th June.

June 4th — H.M.A. Ships "CANBERRA" and "PERTH" departed for Port Phillip at 0316Z.

H.M.A.S. "DOOMBA" reports that she intends to proceed with H.M.A.S. "SWAN" in Company, to carry out exploratory sweeps in Cape Otway area, returning on 7th June, and that fuelling arrangements in Hobson's Bay be made at 2200Z 6th June. Both ships left Port Phillip at 0820Z.

Admiralty reports that enemy war motor boats are to be described as "E" boats to avoid any possible confusion,

Naval Board advise that H.M.A.S. "PARRAMATTA" is now Senior Officer, 20th Minesweeping Flotilla.

War Signal Station, Wilson's Promontory, reported that two warships appeared to be exercising 12 miles from the Station. Ships were H.M.A. Ships "CANBERRA" and "PERTH".

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AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

June 4th (contd) Naval Board advise that approval had been given to enlarge sighting port in gun shields of certain types, and that ship's staff, Naval Dockyard, and private sources undertake the necessary work.

H.M.A.S. "PARRAMATTA" departed Sydney at 2323Z/3, E.T.A. Port Phillip being 2000Z/5. Berth arranged accordingly.

June 5th War Signal Station, Cape Otway, reported two v essels, supposed sloops, approximately 20 miles from Station. These proved to be H.M.A. Ships "DOOMBA" and "SWAN".

Naval Officer Commanding, Sydney, advised the arrival H.M.A. SHIPS "CANBERRA" and "PERTH" at Sydney.

Admiralty report the buoying of any "U" boat sunk in under 40 fathoms

Naval Board advise of restrictions on bunkering or supplying Marine lubricating oil to Italian vessels, stating that any such applications were to be forwarded to Naval Board for consideration,

June 6th H.M.A.S. "PARRAMATTA" entered Port Phillip 2118Z, arriving Port Melbourne 0030Z.

Group 54 A.M/S proceeded to sea 0900K, securing at Williamstown at 1630K.

Admiralty reported that British Merchant ships were to be informed of new procedure to be followed as regards attacking submarines, in view of enemy attacks without warning. Instructions were also given of necessity for making sure that the submarine was an enemy one before opening fire. Naval Control Service Officer was instructed accordingly.

Naval Board advise that "DOMINION MONARCH" will embark 151 Army personnel at Sydney.

June 7th H.M.A. Ships "DOOMBA" and "SWAN" entered Port Phillip at 1540Z, securing H.M.A.S. "Swan" at Williamstown and H.M.A.S. "Doomba" at Coal Wharf, Melbourne.

Naval Board advise that A.I.F. Freight Ship "STRATHMORE" will leave Sydney on 19th June, with approximately 900 troops, arriving Fremantle on 26th June. Arrangements in hand for air reconnaissance and escort. Later advice showed that personnel consisted of 69 Naval and 849 Military.

The Senior Officer, 20th M/S Flotilla, advised H.M.A.Ships "DOOMBA" and "SWAN" to be at "four hours" notice" for steam, in preparation for leaving harbor at 1000K 9th June.

Naval Board advise of new markings of Allied planes. All Authorities advised accordingly. This was superseded with new instructions on the 9th June, which were also passed to all Authorities concerned.

June 8th 20th M/S Flotilla was instructed by Senior Officer, 20th M/S Flotilla, to meet him off Fawkner beacon at 1045 K 9th June.

Group 54, A.M/S, shifted billett, preparatory to H.M.A.S. "GOORANGAI" going into Dock for refit of approximately 21 days. In the meantime, H.M.A.S. "BERYL 11" was to continue original programme.

June 9th H.M.A. Ships "SWAN", "DOOMBA" and "PARRAMATTA" departed Hobson's Bay at 0030Z, and Port Phillip at 0359Z, after H.M.A.S. "PARRAMATTA" had requested coaling of H.M.A.S."DOOMBA" at Whyalla on 12th June.

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AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

June 10th — H.M.A.S. "BERYL 11" proceeded to sea 0800K, departing Port Phillip at 0149Z, and re-entered at 0635K.

June 11th — Adm. advised at 1730Z that H.M. Ambassador at Rome reports that War with Italy within 48 hours appears imminent. This had been expected for some time, and advice was received from Naval Board at 1850Z that hostilities with this country would commence 0001Z 11th June. All concerned were informed accordingly.

H.M.A.S. "BERYL 11" departed Port Phillip at 2137Z/10, re-entering at 0716Z, and anchoring off Portsea at 0750Z, being in V/S communication with Point Nepean.

Dutch recognition signals are to be brought into force when received by all H.M.A. Naval ships.

June 12th — H.M.A.S. "BERYL 11" departed Port Phillip at 2119Z/11, re-entering at 0554Z, anchoring off Queenscliff.

June 13th — H.M.A.S. "BERYL 11" departed Port Phillip 2100Z, re-entering at 0740Z, and anchoring off Queenscliff at 0805Z.

War Signal Station, Wilson's Promontory, reported bright short flashes observed off Cape Wellington, although W.S.S. replied nothing further noticed, and at daylight, although the weather was fine, no vessel or craft could be observed. Naval Board were informed accordingly.

Admiralty message 1916/10 received advising that ships were not to proceed to Italian ports.

June 14th — H.M.A.S. "BERYL 11" departed for Williamstown at 2100Z/13, securing at 0045Z/14.

Naval Board advise that westbound ships are to be routed in a manner to give greater dispersion than in the past. Naval Control Service Officer was informed accordingly.

H.M.A.S. "BERYL 11" advised of embarking Gunnery classes on 18th June, and also to take on board rake party for experience in day and night firings.

Naval Board requested reports by telegram of any movements of Japanese Merchant vessels which are not in accordance with their programmes, and also any unusual movements of Japanese Nationals. Reporting Officers in Victoria were informed accordingly.

Admiralty gave details of Italian Aircraft National markings, and D.E.M.S.Officer was instructed to inform Masters of D.E.M.Ships accordingly.

June 15th — Senior Officer, 20th M/S Flotilla, reported that H.M.A.S. "SWAN" intended to depart from Port Adelaide early 18th June, and make 100% sweep from Althorpe Island to Cape Borda. H.M.A.S. "DOOMBA", after completion of boiler cleaning, would depart Port Adelaide late 18th June, and both vessels would then do a 100% sweep in the vicinity of Cape Jervis, and proceed to Port Melbourne on completion of 100% sweep in the vicinity of Cape Northumberland.

June 16th — Naval Board advise cancellation of Italian Aircraft markings as mentioned by previous Aden message.

Naval Board advise that Commander-in-Chief, East Indies, advises that any Merchant ship approaching as from 13th June within 3 miles of all British Protectorates and Mandated Territory in Area 3 of Admiralty Notice to Mariners 3/40, and Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, will be fired upon.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

June 17 H.M.A.S. "BERYL 11" will escort M/L "CERBERUS" to Hanns Inlet, where launch will proceed to Flinders Naval Depot independently. H.M.A.S. "BERYL 11" is to return to Port Phillip and anchor preparatory to proceeding to sea on the 20th to carry out her prearranged programme.

H.M.A.S. "BERYL 11" departed in accordance with the above at 2120Z/17 for Hanns Inlet.

Admiralty report that all British Merchant ships had been instructed to inform all French Merchant ships at sea to proceed to the nearest British port if not already bound for one. All H.M.A. Ships were advised to take similar action.

Admiralty advise that the following message was, on receipt, to be broadcast and repeated at routine hours "Ships are not to proceed to French ports". Ships bound for French ports should call at a convenient British port on their route.

June 18 Admiralty also advise that instructions are also to be given to all Norwegian, Polish, Dutch and Belgian vessels that no vessels will be allowed to sail for France or French possessions, but must await further instructions. Particulars of cargo of any neutral vessels detained were to be reported. This was passed to Naval Control Service for necessary action.

Naval Board advise that the Customs Department are withholding clearances from all French ships in Australian ports, and that further action was not to be taken until instructions were given.

June 19 H.M.A.S. "BERYL 11" slipped at 0915K from Williamstown and M/L "CERBERUS" at 0920K. These vessels departed Port Phillip at 0320Z.

New Zealand Naval Board report given dangerous area due to possibility of mines. This is the result of the sinking of the S.S. "NIAGARA" off the coast of New Zealand by a mine.

Naval Board advise programme of A.I.F. Freight Ship "STRATHMORE" bound for the United Kingdom, and that the Master of the vessel may expect Warship escort from Neptune Island.

Naval Board advise cancellation of Senior Officer, 20th M/S Flotilla's programme and instructs that H.M.A. Ships "SWAN" and "DOOMBA" are to carry out congested sweeps between latitude 039°00' south and 039°10' south and longitude 143°16' east, 143°46' east.

Naval Board advise that all vessels are to be instructed to pass between 10 and 15 miles southward of Cape Otway, and that searched channels F2, 6, 7, 8, 9 are to be brought into force forthwith, but buoys are not to be laid. Emergency Notice to Mariners No.4 ~~xx~~ amended by Emergency Notice to Mariners No.6 is now to be in force.

June 20 H.M.A.S. "BERYL 11" entered Port Phillip 1440Z/19, and anchored off Queenscliff 1502Z. Instructions passed for this A.M/S to sweep S.C.F.6 ahead of British ship "DOMINION MONARCH" p.m. 20th June.

Instructions received from Naval Board relative to routeing of various classes of ships at discretion of Routeing Officers.

Naval Control Service Officer advised to inform any ships concerned of details of weather forecasts for Merchant ships on African coast.

Instructions given that M/S protection was to be given ~~xx~~ in Bass Strait to "STRATHMORE", which was being sailed from Sydney for Melbourne.

Information was received from Naval Board that mines swept in Hauraki Gulf were horned.

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AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

June 20 (Contd) H.M.A.S. "BERYL 11" departed Port Phillip 0335Z to carry out sweeps in advance for S.S. "DOMINION MONARCH". These instructions were subsequently cancelled by Naval Board, and that H.M.A.S. "BERYL 11" was to commence sweeping searched channels as soon as possible. The S.S. "DOMINION MONARCH" is to now be routed 180° Cape Otway 20 miles. These inwere passed, and"DOMINION MONARCH" departed Port Phillip at 0555Z/20.

F.O.C.A.S. reports that H.M.A.S. "PERTH" was proceeding at 0400Z 20th June for Melbourne from Sydney, and would anchor off Gellibrand Light 1530Z, proceeding alongside Princes Pier at 2200Z 21st June.

Naval Officer Commanding, Sydney, reported H.M.A.S. "PERTH'S" departure at 0503Z escorting A.1 Mail British Freightship "STRATHMORE".

H.M.A.S. "BERYL 11" entered Port Phillip at 0838Z, anchoring off Portsea at 0927Z.

New Zealand Naval Board advise that all Allied Merchant shipping is being instructed to steam without Navigation/lights in Area 11 al

June 21 H.M.A.S. "DOOMBA" advises weather unsuitable for sweeping, but will continue sweepings when weather moderates.

Naval Board instruct that neutral vessels trading in British interest are to be encouraged to seek advice from Naval Control Service Officers and Routeing Officers, and may be given the necessary information to navigate the searched channels applicable to each voyage. This does not apply to Japanese vessels, but may be given to U.S.A. ships if Masters are considered reliable.

Director of Naval Intelligence informed all Staff Officers (Intelligence) to instruct all Admiralty Reporting Officers, War Signal Stations and Coastwatching personnel in intelligence areas to report by telegram any vessel suspected of minelaying. Details were given, for guidance, of possible time and place of minelayers.

The Examination Steamer (Port Phillip) was informed to close and board all vessels within one mile of a position 172½°2.16 miles from Point Lonsdale light.

H.M.A.S. "DOOMBA" reported only 3 days coaling in hand, and was instructed to return with H.M.A.S. "SWAN" to Melbourne to complete with fuel, if possibility of sweeping on the 22nd was slight. H.M.A.S. "DOOMBA" replied that sweeping could possibly commence.

Admiralty instruct that depth charges are not to be carried in Merchant ships when bound for Japanese ports, and any vessel so fitted is to disembark them ~~before~~ at a British port before proceeding. D.E.M.S. Officers informed accordingly.

H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA" departed Sydney for Port Phillip at 0320Z/21, and upon arrival at Port Phillip intends carrying out direction test and High Angle firings 23rd June. If "STRATHMORE" is to be escorted to Adelaide, and her departure from Melbourne precludes the above firing, H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA" intends carrying out programme in Outer Harbor, Adelaide. "STRATHMORE", accompanied by H.M.A.S. "PERTH", entered Port Phillip at 1722Z/21.

June 22 H.M.A.S. "BERYL 11" departed Port Phillip at 2113Z, re-entering at 2257Z, and anchoring off Portsea at 2342Z. States unable to receive by W/T and that sweeping operations impracticable.

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June 22 H.M.A.S. "PERTH" arrived at Port Melbourne.

War Signal Station, Cape Otway, reported two sloops eastbound. These proved to be H.M.A. Ships "SWAN" and "DOOMBA", who anchored off Apollo Bay, after reporting area swept.

War Signal Station, Gabo Island, reported that a Japanese vessel (giving full details) proceeding west did not reply to signals made.

H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA" entered Port Phillip at 1259Z, after giving information that she intended anchoring off Symonds Channel at approximately 1400Z, 22nd June, and departing at 0100Z/23.

June 23 Port War Signal Station reported that Freightship "STRATHMORE" in company with H.M.A.S. "PERTH" departed Port Phillip at 1621Z/22.

War Signal Station, Cape Otway, repprted passing of an unidentified aeroplane, also passing of "Sydney" class cruiser.

H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA" departed Port Phillip at 0220Z. Information was received from Naval Board that H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA" was to escort Freightship "STRATHMORE" from Fremantle to Capetown, then to remain under orders of Commodore-in-Charge, South Atlantic, but advising Naval Board befpre leaving Fremantle of intended time she intended to change to East Indies and South Atlantic wireless organisation.

Admiralty instructions for French Merchant ships met at sea are to the effect that they are to be strongly advised not to proceed to French ports as many ports in France are now occupied by the Germans.

War Signal Station, Cape Otway, reported that at 1902K a sound like a loud detonation was heard, but could not be accounted for. Arrangements were immediately put in hand for H.M.A. Ships "DOOMBA" and "SWAN" to investigate. Vessels in vicinity were asked if anything was heard or noticed, with negative results, as was also the search of H.M.A. Ships "SWAN" and "DOOMBA".

June 24 H.M.A.S. "BERYL 11" departed Port Phillip at 2125Z/23, re-entering at 0655Z

New Zealand Naval Board reports Q.M.4 mine found position 036°28' south, 175 58' east. Mine had been cut by paravane and is now drifting.

Latest Admiralty instructions were received regarding French shipping to the effect that French ships are not to be allowed to sail from any British port and that force was not to be used unless an actual attempt to sail is made.

Instructions were also given to the effect that explanation was to be made that it was necessary to hold shipping until the situation in the French Empire is clarified owing to signing of Armistice by French Government. French Officers were to be impressed that we assumed that they would continue to fight, and did not doubt their loyalty to the Allied Cause.

June 25 H.M.A. Ships "DOOMBA" and "SWAN" entered Port Phillip at 1525Z, vessels securing at Melbourne at 1915Z and 1836Z respectively. H.M.A.S. "SWAN" immediately commenced boiler cleaning, which was expected to take three days, but in the meantime she would be at four hours' notice for steam.

H.M.A.S. "BERYL 11" departed Port Phillip at 2059Z/24, re-entering at 0632Z.

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June 25th (Contd) — Admiralty reports of attempted sabotage in Merchant vessel, giving full details of attempt and type of sabotage. This information was passed to Staff Officer (Intelligence) and Naval Control Service Officer.

H.M.A.S. "DOOMBA" is Senior Officer, 20th M/S Flotilla from 25th June.

A message from Naval Board states that the captured ex-Italian ship "REMO" is being commissioned as a Royal Australian Fleet Auxiliary,

June 26th — H.M.A.S. "PERTH" entered Port Phillip at 1903Z/25, securing at Port Melbourne 2208Z/25, and requested that Pattern VI Target be in a position for sub-calibre firings on 28th June.

H.M.A.S. "BERYL 11" departed 2104Z/24, returning at 0559Z.

The Extended Defence Officer reported that S.S. "PERIOD" attempted to enter Port Phillip without first receiving the special signal. X Battery and Port War Signal Station "K" 'd this vessel, but this was ignored. A shot was therefore fired across her bows. S.S. "PERIOD" hove to and after receiving the special signal from X Steamer was allowed to proceed into harbor.

Admiralty message was received to the effect that discretion could be used to allow French ships to sail, despite previous instructions, where in any exceptional cases it is thought that the sailing is in the Allied interests.

June 27th — H.M.A.S. "BERYL 11" departed Port Phillip at 2105Z, re-entering at 0632Z/27, anchoring off Queenscliff.

Naval Control Service Officer was instructed, after receipt of an Admiralty message, that Masters of Merchant ships must strictly adhere to routeing instructions, as failure to comply with previous instructions resulted in another ship being lost.

H.M.A. Ships "DOOMBA" and "SWAN" were directed to carry out searching sweeps in the vicinity of Wilson's Promontory and Central Bass Strait on completion of exercises on Friday, 28th June.

F.O.C.A.S. instructed that H.M.A.S. "SWAN", after completion of torpedo firing, was to carry out sub-calibre firing and then act as target for throw off of H.M.A.S. "PERTH". The necessary arrangements in all respects were made.

Information was received that H.M.S. "HECTOR" left Wellington New Zealand, for Fremantle en route to East Indies Station,

June 28th — H.M.A.S. "BERYL 11" departed Port Phillip at 2027Z, re-entering at 0542Z/28, securing at Williamstown at 0930Z.

Admiralty informed all Authorities of the effect through the water of the German trackless torpedo, and required all personnel to be informed, as detection could not be made by Submarine Dectector on watch.

A warning was given to all Naval Control Service Officers that every precaution was to be taken to ensure that all ships sailing were in possession of the latest Admiralty lettered messages, as consequences of circumstances might be serious. This warning followed the receipt of an Admiralty message.

H.M.A.S. "PERTH" departed Port Phillip at 0334Z, and H.M.A. Ships "SWAN" and "DOOMBA" departed at 0850Z/28.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

June 28th (Contd) Naval Board informed all authorities that ex-Italian ship "REMO", which was at Fremantle, was expected to be released by Prize Court approximately 2nd July, and would then be commissioned as a Royal Australian Fleet Auxiliary (flying the Blue Ensign) for passing to Melbourne, where she would be paid off on arrival.

District Naval Officer, Western Australia, reported that H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA" and British Ship "STRATHMORE" arrived at Fremantle.

June 29th War Signal Station, Wilson's Promontory, reported H.M.A.Ships "SWAN" and "DOOMBA" carrying out Minesweeping in area previously mentioned, and later repprted that they had proceeded into Sealers Cove at 0830Z.

June 30th Naval Control Service Officer was instructed to inform all ships of the watch to be kept for picking up messages transmitted through Admiralty channels, and also that all ships were to decode all messages far enough to decide whether they were affected or not.

GENERAL: The Commonwealth Minister for Supply gave approval on the 18th June for the purchase for Naval purposes of the Queensland Excursion Steamer "DOOMBA".

This vessel was taken up by the Department of the Navy during the early stages of the War, and has formed part of the 20th Minesweeping Flotilla.

H.M.A.S. "DOOMBA" was built in England during the last War and was taken over by the Admiralty towards the end of the War. She was purchased from the Admiralty by the Brisbane Tug and Steamship Co. after the War, and is a twin screw vessel of 750 tons.

Upon the outbreak of War with Italy, the Italian vessel "REMO" was captured and brought into Fremantle, where she was dealt with by a Prize Court. After release by the Prize Court, she is to be commissioned as a Royal Australian Fleet Auxiliary (flying the Blue Ensign) temporary.

During the month all possible means were taken to prevent any methods of sabotage in Victoria being made against any H.M.A. Ship, Establishment or adjunct. No attempts at sabotage were reported.

Details were received from all quarters relative to navigation lights, buoys, swept and searched channels etc. These were in all cases forwarded to Naval Control Service Officer for passing to all Merchant vessels concerned.

During the month of June the following Norwegian ships were cleared, armed sabotage guards not being considered necessary -

Thorshavet	for	Sydney
Tirranna	"	Mombassa
Toulouse	"	Sydney
Basilea	"	Portland thence Sydney.
Hermion	"	Bunbury
Beduin	"	Singapore
Ole Jacob	"	Pladjoe via Portland
Salamis	"	Sydney
Acadia	"	Colombo
Elsa	"	Newcastle via Botany Bay

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

GENERAL (Contd)

The usual Intelligence operations were carried out during the month, particular regard being paid to the Masters and crews of Belgium, Danish and Norwegian ships. Reports in this connection were forwarded to the Director of Naval Intelligence.

Details were received from the Admiralty relative to selecting Dominion personnel for entry into the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve as Officers and potential Officers, such selection being made from yachtsmen with navigational knowledge for direct Commissioned rank, and gentlemen with good mathematical knowledge for "Potential Officers".

Details were immediately forwarded to all Yacht Clubs, and Selection Boards will meet regularly to interview and select the many applicants desirous of serving.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

TELEPHONE No. MX.5241

Commonwealth of Australia

Department of ~~Defence~~ the Navy.

DEPT. OF NAVY
589/201/779
SECRET.

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE

No. C.11/1/80

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Secret.

NAVAL STAFF OFFICE

Port Melbourne, S.C.7.
14th June, 1940.

ACK. 16 JUN A.M.
INIT. ASH.

The Secretary,
Naval Board,
Navy Office, MELBOURNE.

WAR DIARY - MAY 1940 - H.M.A.S. "CERBERUS III".

Submitted herewith for the information of the Naval Board, in compliance with instructions contained in the Board's confidential memorandum No.589/201/765 of 10th February, 1940, is the War Diary of H.M.A.S. "CERBERUS III" for the month of May, 1940.

Encls./ 17/6

Commander, R.A.N.
District Naval Officer, Victoria.

acys. B. 18/6

Dup.

H.M.A.S. "CERBERUS III".

NAVAL STAFF OFFICE, PORT MELBOURNE.

WAR DIARY - MAY, 1940.

May 1st — Investigation was made by S.O.(I) of suspected sabotage on board "PORT BRISBANE" and at Williamstown Dockyard. No evidence of sabotage was found at the Dockyard and in the case of the "PORT BRISBANE" it was found that a former member of the International Brigade of Spain was endeavouring to stir up trouble among the crew. Suitable action was taken to prevent the spread of this unrest.

May 3rd — H.M.A.Ships "DOOMBA" and "ORARA" and Group 54 A.M/S vessels proceeded to sweep route of U.S.3.

May 5th — Italian ship "ROMOLA" was boarded by S.O.(I).

X.5 departed Port Melbourne for a Bay anchorage.

U.S.3 departed Sydney.

May 6th — X.5 cleared for rendezvous.

U.S.3 comprising "QUEEN MARY", "AQUITANIA", "EMPRESS OF JAPAN", "EMPRESS OF BRITAIN" and "MAURETANIA", escorted by H.M.A.Ships "CANBERRA" and "AUSTRALIA" and H.M.S. "LEANDER" passed Wilson's Promontory westbound.

May 7th — Group 54 A.M/S (H.M.A.Ships "GOORANGAI" and "BERYL II") was utilised for towing target for H.M.A.S. "PARRAMATTA".

May 10th — Message was received from Naval Board to the effect that "Germany has invaded Holland, and that Belgian and Luxembourg also attacked". Naval Guard was placed onboard Dutch vessel "NIEUW ZEELAND".

H.M.A.S. "PARRAMATTA" at "Four Hours' Notice" for steam secured Princes Pier.

May 11th — H.M.A.Ships "SWAN" and "YARRA" are to proceed for Melbourne as convenient after departure of U.S.3 from Fremantle.

Dutch ship "NIEUW ZEELAND" was given clearance certificate, then moved to a bay anchorage. The Naval Guard had been withdrawn.

Naval Board advise that all Dutch ships may be permitted to proceed except where bound for Holland, Belgium or Germany. An anti sabotage guard is to be placed on board any Dutch ships at the discretion of the local Naval authorities in collaboration with the Customs.

May 12th — "NIEUW ZEELAND" departed Port Phillip Heads at 1515K.

Group 54 A.M/S placed under orders of S.O. 20th M.S.F., 4th Sub-Division (H.M.A.S. "DOOMBA").

H.M.A.S. "DOOMBA" proceeded for Hanns Inlet, where she was to anchor prior to taking over Convoy of M.B. "CERBERUS" from Flinders Naval Depot to Port Phillip Heads.

May 13th — Group 54 A.M/S proceeded for exercises in Port Phillip.

H.M.A.S. "BERYL II" thence to remain at Port Phillip Heads for arrival of M.B. "CERBERUS" and then to escort same to Williamstown for Dockyard repairs.

H.M.A.S. "GOORANGAI" secured Nelson Pier (Williamstown) 1915K

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

May 14th — H.M.A.S. "GOORANGAI" proceeded from Williamstown with two Pattern VI targets and rake party for experimental firings, H.M.A.S. "PARRAMATTA" being firing ship.

H.M.A.S. "DOOMBA" departed Hanns Inlet escorting M.B. "CERBERUS".

H.M.A.Ships "DOOMBA" and "BERYL II" with M.B. "CERBERUS" entered Port Phillip Heads 1147K.

H.M.A.S. "GOORANGAI" secured Nelson Pier (Williamstown) 1500K, and disembarked rake party.

H.M.A.S. "BERYL II" escorting M.B. "CERBERUS" secured at Williamstown 1555K.

May 15th — H.M.A.S. "DOOMBA" and Group 54 A.M/S slipped and proceeded for searching sweep towards Apollo Bay, thence to anchor at Apollo Bay.

Advice was received from Naval Board of the transfer of P.W.X.S. Newcastle from the Nobbies to Shepherd Hill.

Signal received from War Signal Station, Cape Otway, and A.R.O. Apollo Bay of the arrival of "one Sloop and two smaller vessels" (H,M.A.Ships "DOOMBA", "GOORANGAI" and "BERYL II").

Arrival Dutch ship "NIEUW ZEELAND" at Port Melbourne. Anti Sabotage Guard was not considered necessary.

May 16th — Norwegian ship "TIRANNA" berthed Port Melbourne. Anti Sabotage Guard not considered necessary.

H.M.A.S. "YARRA" reported her departure in company with H.M.A.S. "SWAN" from Fremantle for Port Melbourne.

A Naval Board signal was received informing all authorities of special telegram "Australia Capstan" (Italy named).

May 17th — The District Naval Officer, Victoria, informed all War Signal Stations, Victoria, of the use of the prefix "Immediate" for the reporting of Italian ships.

H.M.A.S. "DOOMBA" secured Port Melbourne 0715K.

Group 54 A.M/S secured Nelson Pier 0715K.

Anti Sabotage Guards prepared for short notice at Williamstown and Port Melbourne Depots. They are to be maintained until further notice.

Naval Board advise enemy moored mines reported on Aghulas Bank.

Naval Control Service Officer, Melbourne, reported that "KING MALCOLM", "OPAWA", "WELLINGTON STAR", routed inside 100 fathom line at Aghulas Bank.

H.M.A.S. "PARRAMATTA" berthed Port Melbourne.

May 18th — Dutch ship "NIEUW ZEELAND" departed Port Phillip without Anti Sabotage Guard.

Naval Board advised that the possibility of mines being laid on the Australia Station could not be neglected, and also emphasised the importance of carrying out searching sweeps in approaches to defended ports.

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May 19th — P.W.S.S. reports challenging an Avro Anson plane at 1545K and receipt of incorrect reply. Laverton informed by letter.

Mavycirc 845F (2117K) informed that H.M.A.S. "DOOMBA" is S.O. 20th M.S.F.

May 20th — Officers and ratings of H.M.A.S. "DOOMBA" and Group 54 A.M/S vessels commenced musketry course at Williamstown Rifle Range.

Dutch Steamer "ALMKERK" entered Port Phillip.

May 21st — Naval Board advised possibility of enemy raider at large. Then followed a detailed description of its appearance. All Wat Signal Stations notified, also all Mercantile ships proceeding west of Adelaide.

H.M.A.S. "GOORANGAI" slipped at 1345K with two Pattern VI targets for Bay rendezvous with H.M.A.S. "PARRAMATTA" which carried out full calibre day and night firings. Rake party aboard from Naval Reserve Depot, Williamstown.

H.M.A.S. "PARRAMATTA" secured Princes Pier 2050K.

H.M.A.S. "GOORANGAI" with rake party secured Nelson Pier 2206K.

May 22nd — Extended Defence Officer and P.W.S.S. informed of arrival of warships "SWAN" and "YARRA" off Port Phillip Heads E.R.A.0800/22 and that they would not enter.

War Signal Station, Wilson's Promontory, advised D.N.O.Victoria of presence of unknown ship proceeding towards Sealies Cove which ignored the W.S.S. signal. W.S.S. was instructed to keep the ship under observation and report any further developments.

May 23rd — H.M.A.Ships "DOOMBA" and "ORARA" proceeded to rendezvous with H.M.A.Ships "SWAN" and "YARRA" off Port Phillip.

H.M.A.S. "PARRAMATTA" departed for Sydney.

Norwegian ship "ARAINIS" departed for Hobart without Anti-Sabotage Guard.

Navycirc 856F received giving description and disposition of various units of enemy warships. Advice from Naval Board was received of the departure from Sydney for Melbourne of "STRATHEDEN" on 22nd May with 730 troops.

W.S.S. Wilson's Promontory report unknown vessel of previous signal believed to be local fishing vessel, also that an unknown sloop was observed eastbound. This War Signal Station later reported that two sloops and 2 Minesweeping vessels were eastbound.

May 24th — War Signal Station, Gabo Island, reported vessel north of H.M.A. Escort Vessel. This Station also observed H.M.A. Ships "SWAN", "YARRA", "DOOMBA" and "ORARA" sweeping in company to northward.

S.O. 20th M.S.F. advised that 20th M.S.F. anchored in Twofold Bay and intend proceeding 0800K/24.

N.O.C.S. advised arrival of H.M.A.S. "PARRAMATTA" at Sydney.

May 25th — Vessel from 20th M.S.F. was to be detailed to act as target ship on 29th and 20th May for torpedo practice of H.M.A.S."PERTH".

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

May 25th Naval Control Service advised that the position of "STRATHEDEN" at 1011K/23 was 38°00' S. 150°10' E. This vessel had experienced a westerly set and the Master was advised that he must keep to the route given him.

Naval Board advised H.M.A.S. "PERTH" that the sleeve target was available for 29th-30th May with instructions to arrange details direct with R.A.A.F. Laverton.

Gun trials were arranged for D.E.M.S. "KOOLIGA" on Tuesday, 28th May.

S.O. 20th M.S.F. reported that H.M.A. Ships "DOOMBA" and "SWAN" were due 1900Z/26.

H.M.A.Ships "YARRA" and "ORARA" proceeded to Sydney 0100Z/25.

H.M.A.S. "DOOMBA" reported that she lost her anchor when the swivel piece parted. Recovery was effected by the diver from H.M.A.S. "SWAN".

H.M.A.S. "DOOMBA" reported that she had insufficient coal for further sweeping, and intended to proceed to Melbourne 0800Z. H.M.A.S. "SWAN" was to carry on sweeping during Sunday 26th May.

Report was also received that sweepings Nos.1, 2, and 4 of S.O. 20th M.S.F. signal 0607/22 to Naval Board were completed.

Naval Board issued W/T restrictions on the Australia Station for Netherland and Belgium merchant vessels.

26th May H.M.A.Ships "YARRA" and "DOOMBA" arrived Sydney 0030Z.

Group 54 A.M/S were advised of Military Artillery practice in Port Phillip areas 29th May.

D.N.I. Melbourne requested that reports that Masters of Norwegian vessels were being intimidated by Germany with threats that their wives and families would be taken into Germany, be checked and reported.

H.M.A.S. "SWAN" reported departure 0200z from Twofold Bay for Melbourne E.T.A. 1700Z.

Navycirc. 866F received and decoded.

Group 54 A.M/S slipped 0300K from Williamstown.

Naval Board reports that Norwegian vessel "GRENA" was on charter to Cap Dull Iranian Oil Company and that she was to proceed to Soe Soe to load for the United Kingdom. Master informed accordingly.

27th May H.M.A.S. "PERTH" left Sydney 2351Z for Melbourne.

H.M.A.S. "DOOMBA" intends to carry out gunnery firings 29th May and requires coal 28th May.

H.M.A.S. "DOOMBA" arrived Port Melbourne 1415Z.

Group 54 A.M/S entered Port Phillip at 0725Z and anchored off Portsea.

H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA" reports due to arrive Melbourne 1800Z/31.

Norwegian ships "ALCIDES" and "GRENA" cleared for Palembang and Singapore respectively, to sail at 2100Z. Both these vessels left Port Phillip at that time but Anti Sabotage Guards were not embarked.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

27th May — H.M.A.S. "SWAN" entered Port Phillip 1812Z and secured at Williamstown for fuelling at 2100Z.

Group 54 A.M/S left Port Phillip at 2114Z.

May 28th — H.M.A.S. "SWAN" was detailed to act as torpedo target ship for H.M.A.S. "PERTH" 29th-30th May.

War Signal Station, Wilson's Promontory, reports H.M.A.S. "PERTH" westbound 0043Z.

F.O.C.A.S. departed Western Australia for Melbourne 0115Z.

Group 54 A.M/S entered Port Phillip 0329Z and anchored off Queenscliff 0225Z.

Dutch ship "ALMKERK" given permission to sail for Capetown.

H.M.A.S. "PERTH" requires aircraft to be provided for conjunction with torpedo firings.

H.M.A.S. "PERTH" atrived Westernport 1400Z.

Naval Board reports that W/T sets and echo meters owned and/or installed by the Amalgamated Wireless (A/sia) Ltd. are to be maintained and repaired by A.W.A. Ltd.

Group 54 A.M/S weighed anchor 2050Z and departed Port Phillip 2118Z.

H.M.A.S. "DOOMBA" proceeded for gunnery practice in Port Phillip.

May 29th — H.M.A.S. "PERTH" sighted and identified at 0112Z by P.W.S.S. and entered Port Phillip 0131Z.

Group 54 A.M/S entered Port Phillip 0245Z and anchored off Queenscliff 0318Z.

Dutch ship "ALMKERK" is now to be sailed for Sydney to be defensively equipped.

H.M.A.S. "SWAN" secured 0730Z, H.M.A.S. "DOOMBA" 0540Z.

H.M.A.S. "PERTH" departed Westernport for Port Phillip 2315Z.

May 30th — Group 54 A.M/S departed Port Phillip 2102Z.

British merchant ships are to be advised that by Admiralty message B.O. constant watch on 500 Kc/s is now maintained by ascension Z.B.1.

Navycirc message from Admiralty states that all Belgian shipping in Allied ports is to be detained on some pretext but not to be treated as enemies. All Belgian ships at sea are to be directed to British or French ports.

H.M.A.S. "PERTH" is to oil at Port Melbourne, not Williamstown as is usual.

H.M.A.S. "SWAN" secured Port Melbourne 0350Z and H.M.A.S. "PERTH" 0400Z.

Norwegian ship "TIRANNA" for Mombasa cleared Port Phillip 0730Z. Anti sabotage guard was not embarked.

N.O.C.S. reports that H.M.A.S. "PARRAMATTA" should proceed Port Phillip on 4th June joining 20th M.S.F. from time ~~to~~ of departure.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

May 30th H.M.A.Ships "DOOMBA" and "SWAN" commenced boiler cleaning to complete by 3rd June, P.M., and are at "Four Hours' Notice for steam"

Group 54 A.M/S entered Port Phillip 0704Z.

H.M.A.S. "BERYL II" states that bunker capacity is 120 tons coal and requires 35 tons to complete capacity. The coal at present in the ship is reported inferior and permission was requested to work out as much as possible as present programme can be carried out for 13 to 14 days without coaling. Inferior coal due to coal miners' strike in Australia which has since been satisfactorily settled.

Admiralty message was received that all British merchant ships were to be informed that W/T silence may be broken to report the presence of any merchant vessel that they suspect to be disguised as a foreign raider. This does not apply where strict W/T silence is to be observed in accordance with existing instructions.

Naval Board reports that Duckboard House Melbourne was to be out of bounds for Naval ratings on Sundays and between 1800 to 1000 other days.

H.M.A.S. "SWAN" developed defect in dome A/S 10 Patt. No.3159. Defects cannot be made good at Melbourne and request was made that new dome be forwarded. Arrangements were made accordingly.

Naval authorities were asked to assist the War Loan campaign by taking part in street marches and to co-operate with Army and Air Force in any possible direction. Arrangements are in hand accordingly.

May 31st Dutch vessels can now normally be allowed to proceed overseas to ports regarding which no restriction on British shipping applies.

Group 54 A.M/S secured Williamstown 1025K.

Instructions passed to Group 54 A.M/S to remain in harbour until a.m. Wednesday 5th June.

S.O. M/S vessels will inspect Group 54 during the week commencing 3rd June.

Naval Board report that Norwegian tanker "OSTHAV" which was expected at Fremantle on 28th May from Singapore was overdue.

P.W.S.S. reported that H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA" was sighted and identified at 1755Z and that she entered Port Phillip at 1846Z E.T.A. Port Melbourne being 0745K. H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA" requested that oil fuel be supplied on arrival.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

TELEPHONE No.
MX.2920
MX.2451

Commonwealth of Australia

Department of ~~Defence~~ the Navy

DEPT. OF NAVY
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IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE
C.11/1/80

NAVAL STAFF OFFICE
PORT MELBOURNE. S.C.7.
15th May, 1940.

ACK. BY A.S. 1330Y
15 MAY P.M.
INIT. H.F.

CONFIDENTIAL.

MEMORANDUM.

The Secretary,
Naval Board,
Navy Office,
MELBOURNE.

WAR DIARY - APRIL 1940.
H.M.A.S. "CERBERUS III"

Submitted herewith for the information of the Naval Board, in compliance with instructions contained in the Board's confidential memorandum No.589/201/765 of 10th February, 1940, is the War Diary of H.M.A.S. "Cerberus III" for the month of April, 1940.

H.N. 16/5
16/5

Commander, R.A.N.
District Naval Officer, Victoria.

Enc.

A.C. ~~N.~~ S. R. 17/5
Dn. T.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

H.M.A.S. "CERBERUS III"

NAVAL STAFF OFFICE, PORT MELBOURNE.

WAR DIARY - APRIL, 1940.

April 1st. H.M. Transport "Ettrick" arrived and berthed at Princes Pier, Port Melbourne. Seaward patrol was instituted in the vicinity of the berth of H.M. Transport "Ettrick" as a security measure. The strength and scope of this patrol was later increased to cover all Warships and Transports as they arrived at Port Melbourne.

April 2nd. H.M.A. Ships "Doomba" and "Orara", with Group 54 A.M/S vessels exercised in approaches to Port Phillip.

H.M.A. Ships "Swan" and "Yarra" arrived at Fremantle.

H.M. Transport "Neuralia" shifted berth from No.28 South Wharf to Princes Pier, Port Melbourne.

April 3rd. H.M.A.S. "Australia" departed from Sydney for Melbourne.

April 5th. H.M.A.S. "Australia" entered Port Phillip at 0625K, berthing at Williamstown for bunkers, afterwards shifting to Port Melbourne, berthing at Princes Pier at 1500K.

Advice was received from Naval Board that H.M.S. "Ramillies" was to proceed to Melbourne.

H.M. Transport "Empress of Britain" bound for New Zealand departed from Fremantle for Melbourne.

April 6th. Arrangements were completed for H.M.A. Ships "Doomba" and "Orara" to carry out searching sweep of the approaches to Port Phillip as far east as Wilson's Promontory in anticipation of the arrival of H.M.S. "Ramillies."

Notice was received from Naval Board that H.M.A.S. "Parramatta" was to carry out her "working up" programme in Port Phillip.

April 7th. H.M. Transports "Strathaird" and "Dunera" left Sydney for Melbourne.

April 9th. H.M. Transports "Empress of Britain", "Strathaird" and "Dunera" arrived at Port Melbourne.

H.M.A.S. "Australia" left Port Melbourne at 0830 and after exercises in the Bay anchored off Portsea.

As a result of enemy activity in Denmark and Norway, measures were taken to prevent sabotage of those countries' vessels in Melbourne. From the Base War Organisation, Armed Guards were placed in the Norwegian ships "Bramora", "Alcides" and "Gausdal". The latter vessel later sailed for Sydney with the armed guard on board.

April 10th. H.M.A.S. "Australia" left Port Phillip en route to Sydney at 2100K.

Accompanied by H.M.A.S. "Adelaide", H.M.S. "Ramillies"departed from Sydney for Melbourne.

H.M. Transport "Empress of Britain" sailed from Melbourne for Wellington, N.Z.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

WAR DIARY, APRIL 1940.

April 10th. (contd.) H.M.A. Ships "Doomba" and "Orara" and Group 54 A.M/S Vessels completed their programme and returned to the Bay. Some delay was experienced by the larger vessels, due to a ketch, subsequently identified as "Defender", ignoring the challenge. She was brought to by a shot and was later allowed to proceed.

April 12th. H.M.S. "Ramillies" berthed at Port Melbourne and H.M.A.S. "Adelaide" at Williamstown for fuel.

The Norwegian ship "Gausdal" cleared the Heads for Sydney, "Bramora" and "Alcides" remained at anchor off Gellibrand.

April 14th. H.M.A.S. "Parramatta" departed from Sydney for Melbourne. She had originally sailed on the previous day but owing to exceptionally heavy weather was forced to return.

During the day, H.M. Transports "Neuralia", "Ettrick" and "Dunera", having embarked details of the 6th Australian Division, left Port Melbourne and anchored in Port Phillip.

April 15th. H.M.S. "Ramillies" left Port Melbourne at 0745K and exercised in Port Phillip.

H.M.A.S. "Adelaide" followed at 1000K.

H.M.A.Ss. "Doomba" and "Orara" left Portsea anchorage and cleared the heads to sweep the route of Convoy "U.S.2." When the weather abated, Group 54 A.M/S vessels also proceeded and carried out sweeping operations.

At 1230 H.M. Transport "Strathaird", having embarked troops, departed from Port Melbourne.

At 1300 the port was closed to ordinary traffic and at 1400K H.M.A.S. "Adelaide", followed by H.M.S. "Ramillies" constituting the escort of Convoy "U.S.2." cleared the Heads followed by the transports "Dunera", "Strathaird", "Neuralia" and "Ettrick." After the Convoy and Escort had cleared Port Phillip Heads the Port was re-opened.

The Norwegian vessels "Bramora" and "Alcides" moved to the Inner Examination Battery to await H.M.A.S. "Parramatta" under whose escort they were to proceed to Fremantle. The "Thermopylae" arrived at Geelong from Adelaide under an Armed Guard.

April 16th Owing to adverse weather, H.M.A.S. "Parramatta" was delayed and therefore the "Bramora" and "Alcides" were ordered by the Naval Board to sail for Fremantle without escort but with Armed Guard on board.

April 17th H.M.A.S. "Parramatta" arrived.

Norwegian ship "Elsa" arrived from Newcastle, N.S.W. The guard on board was withdrawn and another guard from this Depot took their place, after which the ship proceeded to Fremantle.

April 20th Norwegian ship "Thermopylae" sailed for Albany without the Guard after the Master, whose political sympathies had been ascertained, had given his undertaking to proceed to Albany only.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

WAR DIARY, APRIL 1940.

April 21st — Advice was received from D.N.O.(W.A.) of the arrival of H.M.S. "Ramillies" and H.M.A.S. "Adelaide"

April 25th. — H.M.A. Ships "Doomba" and "Orara", accompanied by Group 54 A.M/S vessels left and commenced a Searching Sweep of the route of H.M. Transport "Empress of Canada" en route Sydney to Melbourne.

April 29th. — H.M. Transport "Empress of Canada" arrived.

April 30th. — H.M.A. Ships "Doomba" and "Orara", accompanied by Group 54 A.M/S vessels, returned to Melbourne, berthing at Port Melbourne and Williamstown.

During the latter half of the month, H.M.A.S. "Parramatta" exercised in Port Phillip as part of her working up programme.

During the month ratings numbering 287 were drafted and 217 were received in the depot for disposal. This includes ratings who were detailed for Guard duties in Norwegian ships.

Intensive training of V/S, W/T and D.E.M.S. ratings was proceeded with throughout the month. The training of a permanent target party was commenced.

All D.E.M. Ships arriving at Port Melbourne were visited and their armament and equipment was inspected and any necessary action taken to remedy defects.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

TELEPHONE No.
MX.2920
MX.2451

Commonwealth of Australia

Department of Defence

DEFENCE
589/201/779
SECRET

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE
No. C.11/1/80

NAVAL STAFF OFFICE
PORT MELBOURNE. S.C.7.
19th April, 1940.

CONFIDENTIAL.

MEMORANDUM.

The Secretary,
Naval Board,
Navy Office,
MELBOURNE.

Ack'd By Form A. S. 1830 a.

Init. [illegible]
Date 19/4/40

WAR DIARY - MARCH 1940.
H.M.A.S. "CERBERUS III"

Submitted herewith for the information of the Naval Board, in compliance with instructions contained in the Board's confidential memorandum No.589/201/765 of 10th February, 1940, is the War Diary of H.M.A.S. "Cerberus III" for the month of March, 1940.

[signature]
Commander, R.A.N.
District Naval Officer, Victoria.

Enc. 23/4 22/4/40

A.C.N.S. 23/4
C.L.O.
D.N.I. 25/4

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

H.M.A.S. "CERBERUS III"

NAVAL STAFF OFFICE, PORT MELBOURNE.

WAR DIARY - MARCH, 1940.

March 1st.

H.M.A. Ships "Beryl II" and "Goorangai" returned to Williamstown, from exercises in approaches to Port Phillip, and secured at Nelson Pier 1200K.

H.M.A.S. "Westralia" arrived in Port Melbourne after exercises in Port Phillip Bay.

March 4th.

H.M.A.S. "Yarra" departed Port Melbourne.

At 1500 H.M.A.S. "Westralia" slipped and proceeded to Port Phillip Bay to carry out night sub-calibre firing.

March 6th.

H.M.A.S. "Westralia" departed Port Phillip for Sydney.

March 7th.

S.O.(I) reports the investigation of a suspected case of sabotage in S.S. "Burwah". A number of small arms cartridges were thrown aside in one of the spaces. Possibly illicitly obtained and so disposed of, but no sabotage was involved.

H.M.A.S. "Goorangai" carried out special depth charge tests outside Port Phillip.

March 8th.

H.M.A.S. "Canberra", wearing the flag of F.O.C.A.S., arrived at Port Melbourne at 0630.

March 10th.

H.M.A.S. "Canberra" left Port Melbourne at 0935 and carried out exercises in Port Phillip. She finally departed Port Phillip at 1302.

March 14th.

H.M.A.Ss."Goorangai" and "Beryl II" departed Williamstown at 0910 for M/S exercises in Twofold Bay.

March 22nd.

H.M.A.S. "Adelaide" arrived at Williamstown from Westernport at 1500.

At 0245 H.M.A.Ss. "Goorangai" and "Beryl II" returned to Williamstown from M/S exercises at Twofold Bay. The 20th M/S Flotilla, comprising H.M.A.Ss. "Swan" (wearing S.O. Pennant), "Yarra", "Doomba" and "Orara" entered Port Phillip and anchored off St. Kilda at 2100.

March 23rd.

H.M.A.Ss. "Orara" and "Doomba" berthed at Port Melbourne at 0745.

H.M.A.Ss. "Swan" and "Yarra" at Oiling Berth, Williamstown at 0730.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

WAR DIARY - MARCH, 1940 (contd.)

March 24th. Lieutenant-Commander Read, R.A.N. assumed command H.M.A.S. "Doomba", vice Lieutenant Commander M.J. Clark, R.A.N.

March 25th. Naval Board advised D.N.O. of projected arrival of "Job 55" for 10th April, and asked for reports of suitable time of entry to Port Phillip and time of arrival Port Melbourne.

March 26th. H.M.A.S. "Adelaide" departed Port Melbourne 0915 and cleared Port Phillip at 1422, for Westernport.

Warships "Swan" and "Yarra" slipped from Princes Pier at 1005 and proceeded in company for Fremantle. They cleared Port Phillip Heads at 1377.

Naval Board advice was received that "X.5." (Empress of Canada") would be embarking troops at Melbourne about 5th May, 1940. Thence would sail to join U.S.3.

March 27th. H.M.A.Ss. "Doomba" and "Orara" carried out Gunnery School Firing in Port Phillip.

Group 54 A.M/S Vessels slipped at 0601 to carry out searching Sweep on a course Port Phillip to Cape Otway.

H.M.A.Ss. "Doomba" secured at Princes Pier at 1645. H.M.A.S. "Orara" berthed at 2015.

A report from P.W.S.S. at 1750 of the entry of Group 54 A.M/S Vessels into Port Phillip.

Lieutenant G.L. Farnell, R.A.N.R. appointed from H.M.A.S. "Doomba" to H.M.A.S. "Cerberus III", Base Staff, for Examination Service, vice Lieutenant John E. Reynolds, R.A.N.R. appointed from H.M.A.S. "Cerberus III" to H.M.A.S. "Doomba" for W/K experience.

March 28th. H.M.T. "Neuralia" ("Y.2.") berthed 28th at South Wharf and proceeded to coal.

March 29th. Naval Board advised that until further orders periodic Searching Sweeps to be carried out by H.M.A.Ss. "Doomba", "Orara", and Group 54 A.M/S Vessels in approaches to Port Phillip.

March 30th. W.S.S., Wilson's Promontory, advised (T.O. 0029K/30) the east bound passage of a Warship "Supposed Adelaide"

March 31st. Arrival of Warships "Perth" and "Adelaide" in Sydney at 1010K reported by N.O.C.S.

During March individuals and parties of ratings totalling 109 were drafted to various Stations and Ships of the R.A.N. 164 ratings were received in this Depot for disposal.

Intensive training was maintained with V/S and W/T ratings. In addition the D.E.M.S. Gunnery School ratings were augmented and training is being maintained with these people.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

TELEPHONE No.
MX.2920
MX.2451

Commonwealth of Australia

Department of Defence

DEFENCE CONFIDENTIAL
589/201/765

File
DNI
13/2/40C

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE
No. C.11/1/80

NAVAL STAFF OFFICE
PORT MELBOURNE. S.C.7.
7th March, 1940.

CONFIDENTIAL.

MEMORANDUM.

The Secretary,
Naval Board,
Navy Office,
MELBOURNE.

Ack'd By Form
A. S. 1330 a.
Init. Ast I
Date 8/3/40

WAR DIARY - FEBRUARY 1940.
H.M.A.S. "CERBERUS III"

Submitted herewith for the information of the Naval Board, in compliance with instructions contained in the Board's confidential memorandum No.589/201/765 of 10th February, 1940, is the War Diary of H.M.A.S. "Cerberus III" for the month of February, 1940.

2. Preparation of the Diary covering the period 25th August, 1939 to 31st January, 1940 is in hand and it will be submitted at the earliest possible date.

H.N. 8/3/40.

a. C. N. S. B. 4/3
D.N.I.

Enc.

Commander, R.A.N.
District Naval Officer, Victoria.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

H.M.A.S. "CERBERUS III"

NAVAL STAFF OFFICE, PORT MELBOURNE.

WAR DIARY - FEBRUARY, 1940.

Thursday 1st.

H.M.A.S. "Moresby" arrived Port Melbourne at 1235 for anti-submarine exercises.

H.M.S. "Hector", Armed Merchant Cruiser, arrived Port Melbourne from Fremantle en route for New Zealand.

Friday 2nd.

Lieut. C.J. Stephenson,R.A.N. assumed command of H.M.A.S. "Orara", vice Lieut.-Commander J.V. Frizelle, R.N.

Saturday 3rd.

H.M.A.S. "Moresby" departed Port Melbourne for Sydney.

Sunday 4th.

H.M.A.S. "Canberra", wearing Flag of Flag Officer Commanding Australian Squadron, arrived Port Melbourne at 1000.

Monday 5th.

H.M.S. "Hector" sailed from Port Melbourne for Auckland (N.Z.) at 0900.

Tuesday 6th.

Lieut.-Commander S. Thorne, R.A.N.R. relieved Lieut. D. Wiley, R.A.N.R. as Commanding Officer, War Signal Station, Gabo Island. Lieut. Wiley appointed to H.M.A.S. "Swan" for Watchkeeping experience.

Wednesday 7th.

H.M.A.S. "Manoora" arrived Port Phillip from Sydney for "working-up" exercises at 1225.

H.M.A.S. "Canberra" sailed from Port Melbourne at 1330 and cleared Port Phillip Heads at 1926.

Lieut. W.J. Twist, R.A.N.R. relieved Lieut.-Commander G.W. Boyle, R.A.N.R. as Chief Examining Officer, Queenscliff. Lieut.-Commander Boyle returned to Williamstown and took up duty in the Naval Reserve Depot there.

Wednesday 21st.

At 0905 H.M.A.S. "Manoora" departed Port Phillip on return to Sydney.

Friday 23rd.

H.M.A.S. "Westralia" arrived in Port Phillip on commissioning cruise at 1800

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

WAR DIARY - FEBRUARY, 1940 (contd.)

Saturday 24th.

H.M.A.S. "Adelaide" arrived in Port Phillip at 0512 and proceeded to Williamstown to fuel, afterwards shifting billet to Port Melbourne.

Tuesday 27th.

H.M.A.S. "Adelaide" sailed from Port Melbourne for exercises in Port Phillip.

H.M.A. Ships "Orara" and "Doomba" of the 20th Mine-sweeping Flotilla left Port Melbourne for Sydney at 1800.

Wednesday 28th.

H.M.A.S. "Adelaide" left Port Phillip at 1900 for Sydney.

During the month of February there were no large movements of ratings to or from this Depot.

Individuals and small parties to the total of 87 were drafted to various Stations and Ships of the R.A.N. and 108 were received here for disposal.

Ratings qualified as Seaman Gunners or Gunlayers were retained in a "pool" and continuously exercised until they were required for defensively equipped merchant vessels.

Intensive training was also given to Signal and W/T ratings and examinations were held in these branches during the month for promotion to higher rating.

H.M.A. Ships "Beryl II" and "Goorangai" (Group 54 A.M/S Vessels), in addition to exercising minesweeping, carried out Gunnery School Firings on 14th February.

H.M.A. Ships "Doomba" and "Orara" of 20th M/S Flotilla carried out Gunnery practice in addition to their usual minesweeping exercises.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074122

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