### **AWM78**

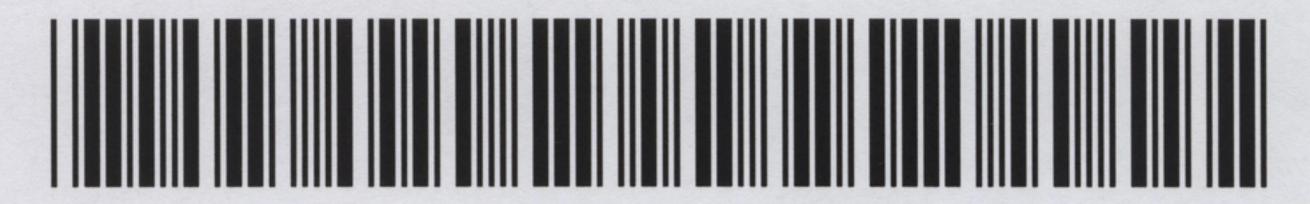
# Reports of Proceedings, HMA Ships and Establishments

AWM78 Class 316 - HMAS SOUTHERN CROSS

File number: AWM78/316/1

Title: AWM78 316/1 - August 1941. Includes

**HMAS KIARA** 



RCDIG1074354

ACCESS STATUS

OPEN

SECRET

CONFIDENTIAL

# OCH BOOK

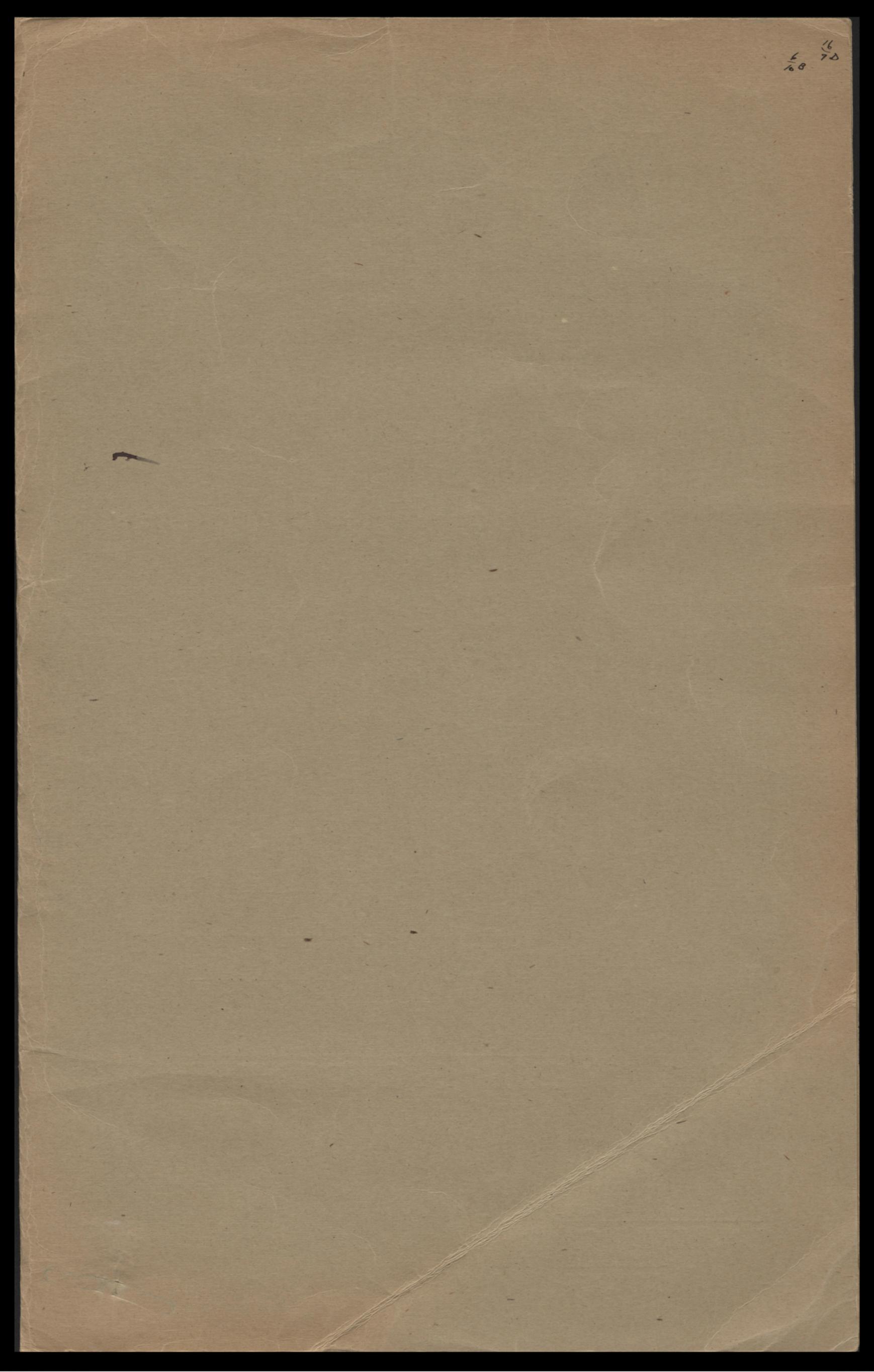
# DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

Declassification Authority—Defence Records
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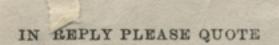
Authority Dig (N) Admin 18-13.
Reviewer: LCDR R. L. Smith (RANEM)

Signature: Kesmith Date: 12 HAR 9

Subject:



## Royal Australian Nany.



Commanding Officer, "SOUTHERN CROSS". FROM:

NAVAL OFFICER-IN-CHARGE, NORTHERN TERRITORY. TO:

DATE: 25th August, 1941.

REPORT ON PROCEEDINGS, H.M.A.S. "SOUTHERN CROSS" WITH H.M.A.S. "KIARA" IN COMPANY FROM SYDNEY TO DARWIN.

The following Report of Proceedings of "SOUTHERN CROSS" and "KIARA" in company, from SYDNEY to DARWIN is submitted for your information.

2. "SOUTHERN CROSS" and "KIARA", in company, sailed from Sydney at 0359Z on 29th June, 1941, at cruising speed (7.75 knots). At 1200Z on 1st July, "KIARA" with one engine broken down was taken in tow by "SOUTHERN CROSS", in a short heavy sea, "SOUTHERN CROSS" steaming dead slow through the night. At 0125Z, on 2nd July since the weather had moderated and "SOUTHERN CROSS" had gradually increased speed, "KIARA" slipped and proceeded under one engine. BRISBANE was reached on 3rd July. A Pilot, under instructions from District Naval Officer, Brisbane, was embarked in MORETON BAY.

3. Necessary repairs were carried out in "KIARA" and the Vessels sailed from BRISBANE on 6th July anchoring overnight off CALOUNDRA. A Pilot was embarked off INSKIP POINT for passage through GREAT SANDY STRAIT, and "SOUTHERN CROSS" and "KIARA" arrived at GLADSTONE on 8th July when "KIARA" completed with fuel from Shell Company Jetty. (Commanding Officer's Note. It was decided to take the inshore route to avoid the possibility of a heavy sea developing over the long run from WIDE BAY to BREAKSEA SPIT, and a breakdown in "KIARA" necessitating a tow by "SOUTHERN CROSS". Having carefully perused charts of the GREAT SANDY STRAIT with Masters of local Coasting Vessels, it was decided there would be unnecessary delay without a Pilot observing that passage had to be made at night during the period of high tide.)

"SOUTHERN CROSS" and "KIARA" sailed from 4. GLADSTONE on 9th July. On 10th July with freshening breeze "KIARA" reported Port Engine defective and apparently out of line due to working in short heavy seas, but proceeded with one engine. Ships anchored in EGMONT PASS overnight. After passing through LONG ISLAND SOUND and MOLLE CHANNEL "SOUTHERN CROSS" took "KIARA" in tow but maintained speed, in calm to slight sea, and arrived at TOWNSVILLE on 12th July where "KIARA" was placed on slip. Hands were employed in painting both Ships.

The Port Engine of "KIARA" was realigned at TOWNSVILLE and "SOUTHERN CROSS" and "KIARA" proceeded to sea on 15th July arriving at CAIRNS on 16th July.

Necessary repairs to the gear box of the port engine of "KIARA" and to wiring in "SOUTHERN CROSS" (damage by fire in galley) were effected. The fire which was due to inexperience in the use of stove, caused little and only local damage, and a Report thereon, dated 22nd July, 1941, was rendered to the Commodore-in-Charge, Sydney.

The Ship's Company were entertained at a Picnic

at Barron Waters by the Junior Auxiliary Anzac Club.

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"SOUTHERN CROSS" and "KIARA" sailed from CAIRNS on 21st July and arrived at COOKTOWN on 22nd July. completed with fuel, "SOUTHERN CROSS" taking a reserve supply aboard and the Ships sailed for THURSDAY ISLAND on the same day.

The Vessels anchored off LIZARD ISLAND and in PORTLAND ROADS during the nights of 22nd and 24th July respectively.

"SOUTHERN CROSS" and "KIARA" arrived at THURSDAY ISLAND on 26th July where "KIARA" was fuelled from reserve in "SOUTHERN CROSS", and Spirit and Lubricating Oil for "KIARA" were taken on board "SOUTHERN CROSS".

Both Vessels sailed from THURSDAY ISLAND for DARWIN on 27th July. On 28th July, the starboard engine of "SOUTHERN CROSS" was stopped for seven hours owing to extreme overheating of exhaust pipe. (Lagging has been permanently removed from both exhaust pipes to prevent recurrence of the same trouble).

The Ships anchored off ELCHO ISLAND on 29th July and the following morning proceeded on passage after "KIARA" had been fuelled to full capacity by "SOUTHERN CROSS". On the 31st July an anchorage was found in POPHAM BAY.

"SOUTHERN CROSS" and "KIARA" arrived at DARWIN 10. at 1900 IK on 1st August.

Fine weather was experienced throughout the passage from SYDNEY to DARWIN with calm to slight and choppy seas, ans south easterly winds.

"ACTION STATIONS", "ABANDON SHIP" and "FIRE STATIONS" were exercised on numerous occasions and rifle practice

to ensure markmanship against mines was carried out.

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LIEUTENANT COMMAN

N.T.600/2. The Secretary, Naval Board.

Submitted for the information of the Naval Board.

Naval Headquarters, Darwin, N.T.

CAPTAIN. NAVAL OFFICER-IN-CHARGE, N.T.

SECRET

FROM: Commanding Officer, "SOUTHERN CROSS".

TO: NAVAL OFFICER-IN-CHARGE, NORTHERN TERRITORY.

DATE: 25th August, 1941.

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N.T.600/2. The Secretary, Naval Board. (SGD) C. F. SYMONDS

LIEUTENANT COMMANDER. R.N.

II.

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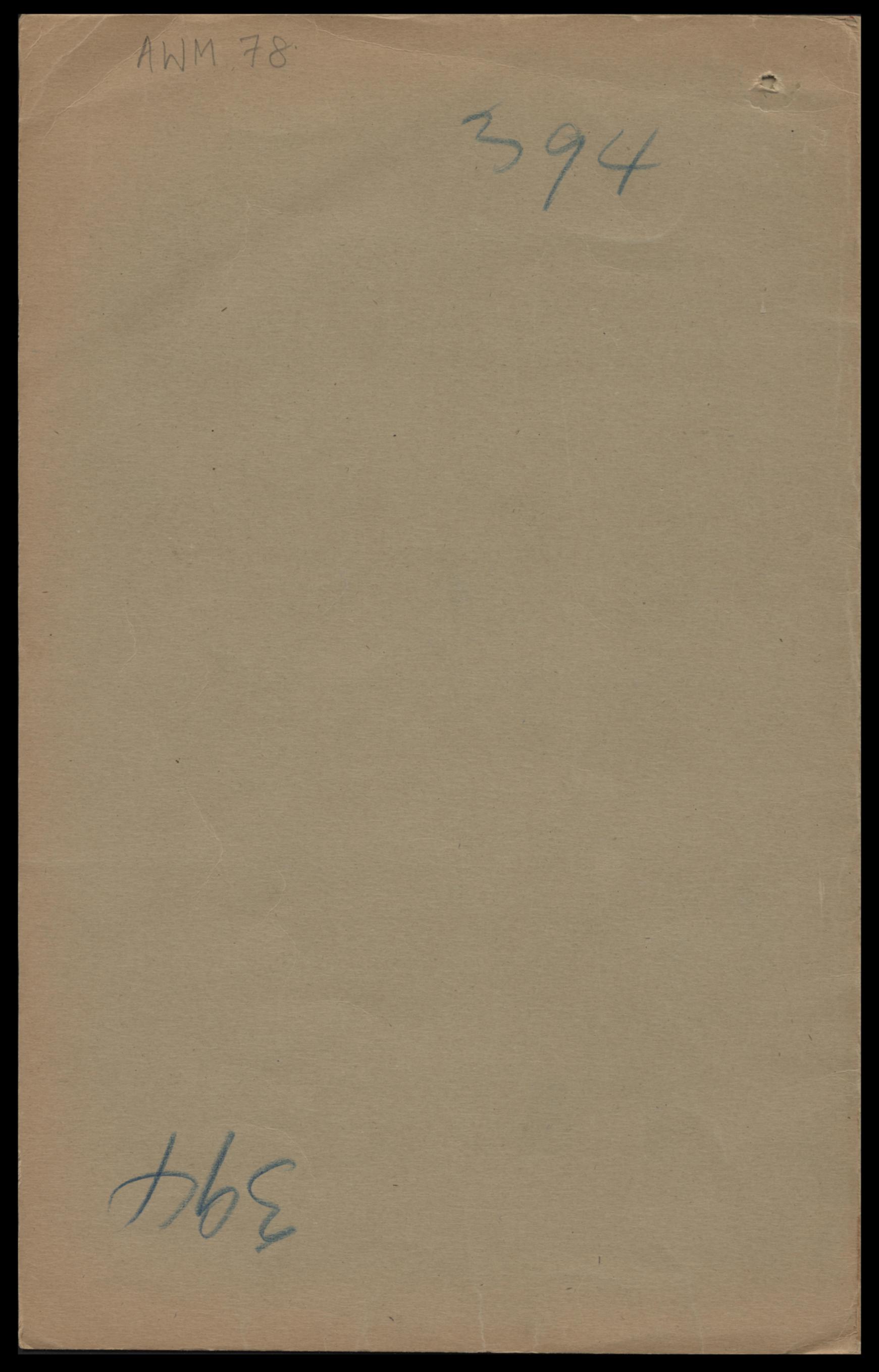
(Sgd.) E. P. Thomas

Naval Headquarters, Darwin, N.T.

CAPTAIN.
NAVAL OFFICER-IN-CHARGE, N.T.

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