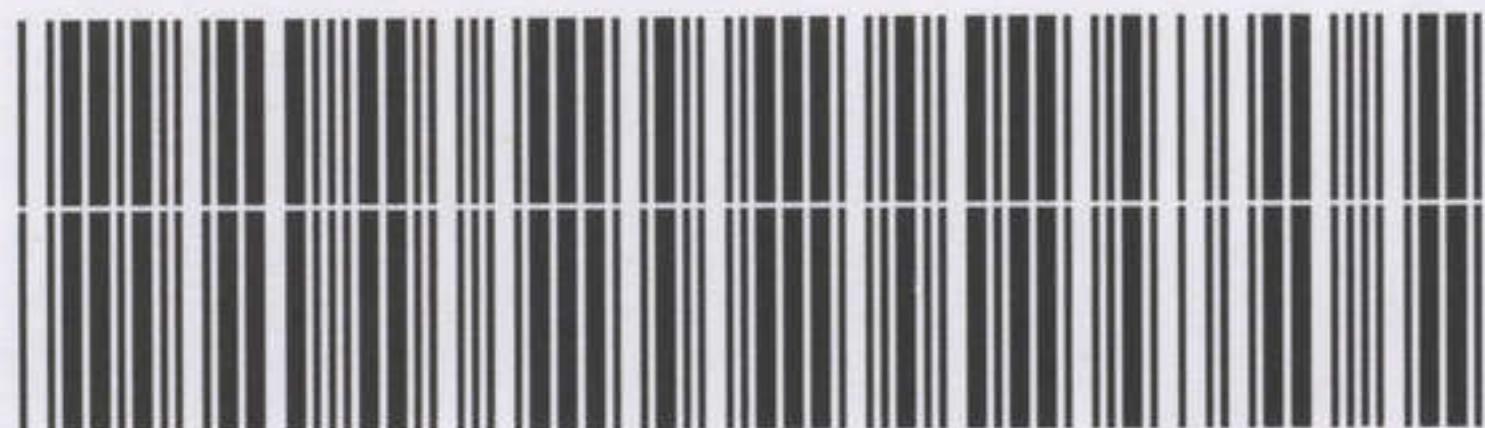


**AWM78**  
**Reports of Proceedings,**  
**HMA Ships and Establishments**

**HMAS HOBART (I and II)**

**Item number:** 141/3

**Title:** July-December 1941



AWM78-141/3

[141(3)]

AUSTRALIAN ARCHIVES  
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: 1 Nov 1990.  
Authority Ddg (N) Admin 18-13.  
Reviewer: LCDR R. L. Smith (RANEM)

Signature: Reynolds Date: 1 Nov 90

HOBART: War Diary Jul-Dec 1941  
(Copies)

RECEIVED

-7 OCT P.M.

(3)

589/20/11/19

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY.

PLEASE RETURN TO  
NAVAL ARCHIVES BRANCH

From: The Commanding Officer, H.M.A.S. "HOBART".  
Date: 3rd August, 1941. Number: 177/23.✓  
To : The Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean Station.  
Copies to: The Rear Admiral Commanding, Seventh Cruiser  
Squadron.  
The Secretary, Naval Board, Navy Office,  
Melbourne.  
The Rear Admiral Commanding, H.M.A. Squadron.

SUBJECT: WAR DIARY: 1st - 31st July, 1941.

Submitted for information, in accordance with Naval Board  
Letter 034996, dated 8th November, 1940, the following War Diary.

(All times Zone - 3 except where otherwise stated.)

- 1st - 4th: On passage from Fremantle to Seychelles.  
5th: 0915 (-4) arrived at Port Victoria, Seychelles, and anchored.  
Oiler "BRITISH GENIUS" alongside for fuelling.  
1200 (-4) H.E. The Governor and local officials visited ship.  
1715 (-4) Shipped from oiler and proceeded for Aden.  
*✓ 1/10*  
*ocns* 2000 (-4) Carried out night full calibre firing at smoke  
float target.  
6th: On passage to Aden.  
7th: On passage to Aden. Challenged and identified S.S. "CLAN  
RANALD".  
8th: On passage to Aden. Challenged and identified S.S. "CORONA"  
(Norwegian), S.S. "DARLINGTON COURT" and S.S. "TIZAM" and H.M.S  
"BOTLEY" (A.H.C.).  
9th: On passage to Aden. About 0100 (-3½) a distress message was  
received from S.S. "TIZAM" reporting that "two shots" had been  
fired. It was appreciated from the position that the vessel  
concerned was "BOTLEY", and this was confirmed by signal later.  
Passed and identified S.S. "JUANETTE SKINNER" and "CANADA".  
0945 Arrived at Aden and secured in No. 4 Oiling Berth. Fuel  
led Ship. An H.A. Firing arranged to take place on arrival did  
not take place owing to the non arrival of the towing  
aircraft.  
1620 Weighed and proceeded for Suez.  
10th: On passage to Suez. Passed S.S. "CANADA" and "KING JAMES" and  
several ships which were not identified, intelligence being  
that all merchant ships met would be friendly.  
11th: On passage to Suez. Passed H.S. "COMEDIAN", "FERNHILL", "CIT  
OF CHIOS", "WESTRALIA" (ex Danish) and several others not iden-  
tified. Carried out H.A. Firings at smoke burst target.

- 12th: 1608 Arrived at Suez and anchored in outer anchorage, near M.V. "GEORGIC". Fuelled, watered and embarked provisions. Ships in harbour H.M.S. "ANSON", H.M.S. "CALEDON" and H.M.S. "KIRPLING" and local defence vessels.
- 13th: 1836 Weighed and proceeded in company with "KIRPLING" to pass through Canal. Swept ahead by local craft using magnetic and acoustic sweeps.
- 1914 Received orders cancelling passage when some distance inside canal. Proceeded stern first down canal and anchored in Inner Anchorage at 2000.
- 14th: 0005 "Yellow" Air Raid warning.
- 0020 "Red" Air Raid warning. Enemy aircraft intermittently bombing Port - Tewfik and Suez and engaged by shore batteries.
- 0300 Aircraft commenced dive bombing shipping at anchor. Engaged by shore batteries and ships A.A. armament.
- 0313 M.V. "GEORGIC" (anchored in Outer Roads) was hit abaft main-mast - No. 5 Hold - by bomb and shortly afterwards commenced to burn fiercely. She proceeded to beach herself and in doing so struck L.M. Transport "GLENMARN" which was secured to a buoy, damaging her superstructure and setting her on fire, and finally dragged her ashore. "GEORGIC" and "GLENMARN" grounded on North Shoal about a cable apart. The fire in "GLENMARN" was soon extinguished.
- 0350 Last bombing raid - dawn breaking.
- 0400 Sent all boats to assist in taking off passengers and crew from "GEORGIC" now burning fiercely except right forward.
- 0438 "Green" warning - all clear.
- 0430 - 0830 Boats and medical parties assisting in transferring passengers and crew from "GEORGIC" to shore and attending casualties. A number of the rescued were onboard "HOBART" including the Master of the "GEORGIC", The Commodore of the Convoy and some women and children and a number of wounded received treatment.
- 1000 Sent sounding party to "GLENMARN" preparatory to attempting to tow her off at high water (1715).
- 1417 Weighed and proceeded to anchorage off "GLENMARN".
- 1447 Came to both anchors and ran  $\frac{5}{8}$  wire to "GLENMARN".
- 1515 Commenced heaving in "GLENMARN" floated off shoal, being assisted by southerly wind and flood tide.
- 1530 - 1700 At single anchor with "GLENMARN" in tow astern; latter had no power and if anchored could not have weighed again.
- 1715 "GLENMARN" taken over by tugs; "HOBART" proceeded to anchorage in Inner Roads.
- 15th: 1000 Weighed and proceeded into Canal, "KIRPLING" five kilometres ahead and both ships swept through by magnetic and acoustic sweeping craft.
- <sup>13</sup> There had been mines reported in the Canal, and it was necessary to drift over mined positions with all main and auxiliary machinery stopped.

(1)

- 15th: 1535 Anchored in Great Bitter Lake. Canal closed owing to convoy from North.  
       2128: Weighed and proceeded.  
       2327 Anchored off Ismailia.
- 16th: 0030 "Red" warning. Air raids on various parts of canal but none in immediate vicinity.  
       0400: "Green" warning.  
       0943 Weighed and proceeded through Canal, "KIPLING" three Kilometres ahead and both ships swept through.  
       1530 Cleared Port Said and dropped Pilot. Set course for Alexandria, "KIPLING" as A/S escort ahead. Passed H.M.S. KANDAHAR and H.M.S. "JERVIS" en passage.
- 17th: 0900 Sighted and challenged Greek Submarine "PAPANICOLAS".  
       1000 Passed H.M.S. "IATONA" and H.M.S. "ARDIEL".  
       1115 Arrived Alexandria secured in No. 7 Berth. Main units of Mediterranean Fleet in Harbour. Fuelled, watered and provisioned.
- 18th: At Alexandria. Commenced mounting additional close range A.A. weapons on "PERTH".  
       1705 "PERTH" proceeded. "HOEART" joined 7th Cruiser Squadron (Flag H.M.S. "AJAX".)
- 19th: 0325 "Red" warning. 0525 All Clear.  
       At Alexandria fitting A.A. weapons, etc.
- 20th: At Alexandria.
- 21st: At Alexandria.
- 22nd: 2102 Proceeded with Mediterranean Fleet for Operation M.E. 3.
- 23rd: At Sea with Mediterranean Fleet for Operation M.E. 3. Intermittent Air Warnings during day but no enemy aircraft sighted.
- 24th: At sea. a.m. carried out Range Finder and Inclination exercises and close range A.A. Pirings with Seventh Cruiser Squadron.  
       1800 Returned to Alexandria and secured in No. 8 Berth. Fuelled.
- 25th: At Alexandria fitting A.A. weapons, etc.
- 26th: 0340 "Red" Warning. Enemy air attacks on Harbour and town on small scale. Fired 4" barrage from time to time. 0455 All Clear
- 27th: At Alexandria.
- 28th: 1306 Slipped from No. 8 berth and proceeded independently.
- 29th: 0900 Secured in "X" berth at Haifa. "KANDAHAR" and "KIMBERLEY" in harbour. Fuelled on arrival.
- 30th - 31st: At Haifa.



H.C. Herder

\* CAPTAIN

DEPT. OF NAVY  
589/201/779  
CONFIDENTIAL

3

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

~~S:RESTRICTED~~ ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY.

PLEASE RETURN TO  
NAVAL ARCHIVES BRANCH

From: The Commanding Officer, H.M.A.S. "HOBART."

Date: 8th September, 1941. Number: 177/23.

To : The Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean Station.

Copies to: The Rear Admiral Commanding, Seventh Cruiser Squadron.

The Secretary, Naval Board, Navy Office, Melbourne.

The Rear Admiral Commanding H.M.A. Squadron.

SUBJECT: WAR DIARY: 1st - 31st AUGUST, 1941.

*HMS 610*  
*DCNL 12/10*  
*DMS 610 8/10*

Submitted for consideration, in accordance with Naval Board Letter 034996, dated 8th November, 1940, the following War Diary.

(All times are Zone - 3.)

*C.L.O.*  
*1 AUGUST.*  
*1st - 3rd*

At Haifa

4th At 1300 "HOBART" slipped and proceeded for Port Said. Gunnery and Torpedo practices were carried out off Haifa, with H.M.S. "KANDAHAR" and "KIMBERLEY." These ships then accompanied "HOBART" to Port Said.

5th At 0550 "NEPTUNE," "SABDIEL," "JACKAL" and "KIPLING" were identified approaching Port Said. The latter joined "HOBART" to complete the force carrying out Operation Guillotine Serial 14. All ships were delayed until sweeping operations were completed at 0910, as Port Said had suffered an Air Raid during the night. At 1015 "HOBART" secured in Port Said, and all ships taking part in Serial 14 embarked troops and stores. At 1315 "HOBART," "KANDAHAR," "KIMBERLEY" and "KIPLING" proceeded for Famagusta with 2000 troops onboard.

6th At 0035 arrived Famagusta, and disembarked troops. "KANDAHAR" and "KIMBERLEY" embarked 320 troops for passage to Alexandria. At 0245 "HOBART," "KANDAHAR" and "KIMBERLEY" proceeded for Alexandria. "KIPLING" proceeded independently to Haifa. At 1900 arrived Alexandria.

7th At Alexandria  
 0045 "Yellow" Air Raid Warning - commenced smoke screen  
 0110 "Red" Warning.  
 0115 Opened fire - blind barrage with ships and shore batteries  
 0115 Cease fire.  
 0130 All clear - ceased smoke screen.  
 0200 "Yellow" Air Raid Warning - commenced smoke screen.  
 0230 All Clear - ceased making smoke screen.  
 2220 "Yellow" Air Raid Warning - commenced smoke screen.  
 2225 "Red" Air Raid Warning.  
 2235 Opened fire with ships and shore batteries. Several enemy planes sighted, and numbers of bombs seen and heard exploding in harbour.  
 2335 Cease fire.  
 2345 All clear - ceased making smoke screen.

## AUGUST.

8th

At Alexandria.  
 0526 "Yellow" Air Raid Warning - commenced smoke screen.  
 0540 All Clear - ceased making smoke screen.  
 2126 "Yellow" Air Raid Warning - commenced smoke screen.  
 2130 "Red" Air Raid Warning.  
 2210 All Clear - ceased making smoke screen.  
 2330 "Yellow" Air Raid Warning - commenced smoke screen.  
 2345 All Clear - ceased making smoke screen.

9th

At Alexandria  
 0300 "Yellow" Air Raid Warning - commenced smoke screen.  
 0315 All Clear - ceased making smoke screen.

10th

0004 "Yellow" Air Raid Warning - commenced smoke screen.  
 0021 All Clear - ceased making smoke screen.  
 1217 "Yellow" Air Raid Warning.  
 1237 All Clear.

11th

At Alexandria.

12th

0255 "Yellow" Air Raid Warning - commenced smoke screen.  
 0310 All Clear - ceased making smoke screen.  
 0325 "Yellow" Air Raid Warning - commenced smoke screen.  
 0327 "Red" Air Raid Warning.  
 0335 Shore batteries opened fire, which continued intermittently until 0344.  
 0358 All Clear - ceased making smoke screen.  
 0417 "Yellow" Air Raid Warning - commenced smoke screen.  
 0440 All Clear - ceased making smoke screen.

13th

1730 sailed in company with "DECOY" and "HAVOCK" for Port Said.

14th

At 0545 "HOBART" was ordered to remain North of Surada Buoy until sweeping was completed, as Port Said had suffered an Air Raid during the night. This had been observed from "HOBART."

AT 0720 permission to enter harbour was granted, and "HOBART" and destroyers secured and fuelled. "KIPLING" was already present, and completed the force for Operation Guillotine Serial 21 P. Also present at Port Said were H.M.A.S. "WAPITER," H.M.S. "FLAMINGO," and H.M.S. "PROTECTOR." The arrival of the troops was delayed, due to the railway line having been damaged by enemy action, and the operation was postponed for 24 hours. Ships reverted to 4 hours notice for steam, and leave was granted until 2100.

15th

"ABDIEL" arrived at 0830, and replaced "KIPLING" as part of the force carrying out the operation. Troops embarked during the forenoon, and at 1110 the ships proceeded for Famagusta, carrying 1983 troops.

S. S. "MELVINBANK" was identified at 1630 on passage from Famagusta to Port Said.

At 1845 Air Raid Warning "Yellow" received by W/T from Famagusta, followed by "Red" warning at 1852, and all clear at 1915.

(1)

## AUGUST.

- 16th At 0021, as the force approached Famagusta Air Raid Warning "Yellow" was received, followed by "All Clear" at 0040.  
At 0041 "HOBART" anchored off the basin, and the remaining ships proceeded alongside. All ships disembarked troops, and "HAVOC" and "DECOY" embarked 720 troops and stores for passage to Haifa.  
At 0230 "ADDIEL" proceeded independently for Alexandria.  
At 0330 "HOBART," "HAVOC" and "DECOY" proceeded for Haifa, arriving there at 1130. The destroyers disembarked troops and stores, and all ships fuelled. H.M.A.S. "VENDETTA" was in harbour undergoing a refit.
- 17th - 31st August at Haifa.
- 18th 1055 Air Raid Warning "Yellow."  
1100 Single "Red" - unknown aircraft  
1145 All Clear.
- 19th 1350 "HOTSPUR" arrived.  
1710 "HAVOC" sailed  
1930 One rating was wounded by rifle shot from S.S. "CLYDEFIELD."
- 20th 0600 "DECOY" and "HOTSPUR" sailed.
- 22nd 1930 Air Raid Warning "Yellow."  
1950 All Clear.
- 23rd 1045 Greek Destroyer "IEPAZ" arrived.  
1825 Greek Destroyer "IEPAZ" sailed.
- 25th 0945 Greek Destroyer "IEPAZ" arrived with Vichy French Hospital Ship "SPHINX."  
1915 "SPHINX" sailed.
- 27th 1100 "VENDETTA" sailed.
- 29th 1715 Greek Destroyer "IEPAZ" sailed.
- 31st 1730 Single "Red" Air Raid Warning.  
1930 All Clear.  
1630 "MOAINT" sailed for Alexandria.

While at Haifa sailing races, cricket, hockey, golf and water polo matches were enjoyed.

Opportunity was taken to carry out diving practice, and Type 53 W/H and Helio sets were landed for exercise and instruction.

CAPTAIN.

RECEIVED  
21 OCT AM

(6)

DEPT OF NAVY  
SECRET

2026 7 432

SECRET

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY

PLEASE RETURN TO  
NAVAL ARCHIVES BRANCH

FROM: The Commanding Officer, H.M.A.S. "HOBART".

Date: 2nd October, 1941. Number: 177/23.

TO : The Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean Station.

Copies to: The Rear Admiral Commanding, Seventh Cruiser Squadron.  
The Secretary, Naval Board, Navy Office, Melbourne.  
The Rear Admiral Commanding, R.A.N. A. Squadron.

SUBJECT: WAR DIARY: 1st - 30th September, 1941.

Submitted for consideration, in accordance with Naval Board Letter 034996, dated 8th November, 1940, the following War Diary:

(All times Zone -3 until 2359 Monday 15th, after which times are Zone -2.)

September:

1st

1130 Entered Alexandria Harbour from Haifa and secured to S.I. buoy outer harbour. Fuelled and stored as required.

2220 "Yellow" air raid warning.

2227 "Green" air raid warning - all clear.

2nd

At Alexandria.

2145 Air Raid warning "Yellow".

2245 Air raid warning "Green" - all clear.

3rd

At Alexandria and at sea for exercises.

1915 Departed and proceeded in company with "VALIANT" escorted by "RAPIDE", "VALIANT", "VALDEMAR", "KIRKLINE" and "VALKAL". "HOBART" proceeded independently when clear of harbour.

1300 Carried out six-inch full calibre reduced charge

firings at D.P.T. towed by "ST. KILDA".

1400 "HOBART" acted as target for A.L.T. practices by three Swordfish aircraft. Report, P.D.S. "GLOBE".

1645 "VALIANT" and "HOBART" carried out range and inclination exercise.

1715 "HOBART" carried out dummy low visibility torpedo attack on "VALIANT". The target used R.D.F. reports for manoeuvring and taking evasive action.

1755 Practices completed - returned to Alexandria.

1930 Secured to S.I. buoy outer harbour. Fuelled from oil lighter.

2007 Air raid warning "Red".

2050 Oil lighter cast off.

2057 Shore batteries opened fire.

2059 Shore batteries ceased fire - "HOBART" did not fire.

2115 Air Raid Warning "Green" - all clear.

2150 Oil lighter secured alongside.

2143 Air raid warning "Yellow".

2150 Oil lighter cast off.

2152 Air raid warning "Red".

2203 Opened fire in blind barrage with ships and shore batteries.

2207 Ceased fire.

2254 Air raid warning "Green" - all clear.

September:

4th

At Alexandria.  
 0630 Slipped and proceeded to Y8 (Degaussing) berth.  
 0725 Ship secured in Y8 berth with both anchors down and stern secured to Kamaria detached breakwater.  
 0900 D.G. authorities commenced examination of ship.  
 1224 Air raid warning "Yellow".  
 1230 Air raid warning "Green" - all clear.  
 1615 D.G. authorities completed examination of ship.  
 1640 Shifted to G.2 berth alongside Kamaria Breakwater.  
 1730 Secured in G.2 berth.  
 2150 Air raid warning "Yellow".  
 2225 Air raid warning "Green" - all clear.

5th

At Alexandria.  
 0315 Air raid warning "Yellow".  
 0325 Air raid warning "Green" - all clear.  
 2145 Air raid warning "Yellow".  
 2155 Air raid warning "Red".  
 2215 Air raid warning "Green" - all clear.

6th

At Alexandria. 0030 Air raid warning "Yellow".  
 0115 Air raid warning "Green" - all clear.  
 0306 Air raid warning "Yellow".  
 0314 Air raid warning "Red".  
 0320 Shore batteries and other ships opened fire.  
 0332 "HOBART" opened - intermittent fire until  
 0417 Ceased fire.  
 0452 Air raid warning "Green" - all clear. During the raid two bombs were heard to fall on the mainland fairly close to "HOBART" but apparently did not explode. Minor damage and some casualties were caused in the inner harbour during the night.  
 2040 Air raid warning "Yellow".  
 2045 Air raid warning "Red".  
 2050 Air Raid warning "Yellow".  
 2052 Air raid warning "Red." Shore batteries opened fire.  
 2057 Shore batteries ceased fire. "HOBART" did not fire.  
 2107 Air raid warning "Green" - all clear.

7th

At Alexandria.  
 0330 Air raid warning "Yellow".  
 0402 Air raid warning "Green" - all clear.  
 0927 Air raid warning "Yellow". 0950 Air raid Warning "Green".  
 1033 Air raid warning "Yellow".  
 1046 Air raid warning "Green" - all clear.  
 2106 Air raid warning "Yellow".  
 2107 Air raid warning "Red".  
 2127 Air raid warning "Green" - all clear.

8th

At Alexandria.  
 2255 Air raid warning "Yellow".  
 2300 Air raid Warning "Red".  
 2310 Air raid warning "Green" - all clear.  
 2319 Air raid warning "Yellow".  
 2321 Air raid warning "Red".  
 2335 Air raid warning "Green" - all clear.

9th

At Alexandria and at sea for exercises.  
 1200 Slipped and proceeded to sea in company with "AJAX" (C.S.7) to carry out practices.  
 1400 "AJAX" and "HOBART" acted as target for A.L.T. attacks by Swordfish exercising R.P.M. reporting and rapid manoeuvring procedure for avoiding action.  
 1500 "NEPTUNE" joined "AJAX" and "HOBART". "BANKS" and the Seventh Cruiser Squadron carried out a range and inclination exercise combined with a concentration practice (for Seventh Cruiser Squadron only).

(4)

September  
9th

1545 Seventh Cruiser Squadron carried out single ship sub-calibre and sub-calibre concentration firings exercising flank marking procedure during the former. B.P. T. target towed by "ST. ISSEY".

1750 Seventh Cruiser Squadron carried out R.D.F. barrage firing exercising R.D.F. reporting and rapid manoeuvring procedure during the practice and firing six-inch and four-inch H.A. as well as close range weapons.

1930 Returned to Alexandria harbour.

2010 Secured to C.2 berth Komaria detached Breakwater and completed with fuel.

10th

At Alexandria.

1552 Air Raid Warning "Yellow".

1602 Air raid warning "Green" - all clear.

11th

At Alexandria.

1500 Air raid warning "Yellow".

1509 Air raid warning "Green" - all clear.

1520 Air raid warning "Yellow".

1605 Air raid warning "Green" - all clear.

12th

At Alexandria.

0257 Air raid warning "Yellow".

0318 Air raid warning "Green" - all clear.

1501 Air raid warning "Yellow".

1524 Air raid warning "Green" - all clear.

13th At Alexandria.

At Alexandria.

0434 Air raid warning "Yellow".

0436 Air raid warning "Red".

0450 Air raid warning "Green" - all clear.

14th

At Alexandria.

0545 Air raid warning yellow.

0558 Air raid warning "Green" - all clear.

15th

At Alexandria and at sea for exercises and night sweep to North West.

0400 Air raid warning "Yellow".

0404 Air raid warning "Red".

0510 Air raid warning "Green" - all clear.

0815 Slipped and proceeded to sea in company with "AGAM" (C.3.7) and "HEPTHIVE".

1030 Carried out range and inclination combined with concentration exercise.

1100 Carried out R.D.P. plotting W/T reporting and squadron manoeuvring exercise.

1330 Carried out R.D.P., W/T reporting and squadron manoeuvring exercise with aircraft making dummy torpedo bombing attacks on squadron.

1500 Carried out sub-calibre firing concentration practice at B.P.E.

1609 Destroyers "KINGSTON" and "KIMBERLEY" joined Seventh Cruiser Squadron as screen and the force carried out a sweep to the Westward in accordance with C. in G. Mediterranean Signal 12420/14, passing through position 31° 30' N. 27° 20' E. at 20000 on 15th September and 0800E on 16th September and proceeding to the Northwestward during the night.

2359 Retarded all clocks one hour to Zone -2.  
(All times after this are Zone -2)

16th

At sea and at Alexandria.

September:

16th

0158 Received Air raid warning "Blue" from Alexandria by W/T.  
 0355 "KINGSTON" reported A/S contact and proceeded to investigate. On rejoining "KINGSTON" reported contact probably non-submarine, depth charges having been dropped.  
 0653 Air raid warning "Yellow" initiated by "AJAX" & friendly aircraft.  
 0658 Air raid warning "Green" - all clear.  
 0740 Air raid warning "Yellow" initiated by "AJAX". Assumed loose formation.  
 0755 Aircraft probably friendly - resumed single line ahead.  
 0828 Sighted three Destroyers returning to Alexandria from Tobruk.  
 1100 Carried out Range and Inclination combined with concentration exercise. "AJAX" and "HOBART" using "NEPTUNE" as target.  
 1115 Exercised "Wake Smoke Screen".  
 1500 Returned to Alexandria. "HOBART" securing in F.4 berth outer harbour. Completed with fuel.  
 When approaching Alexandria a caïque was sighted and "KIMBERLEY" detached to investigate. The caïque proved to be from Crete and contained refugees and some soldiers, including New Zealand soldiers, all of whom were landed safely in Alexandria.

17th

At Alexandria and at sea - Alexandria to Beirut.  
 1825 Slipped and proceeded in company with "AJAX" and "NEPTUNE" in accordance with C. in C. Mediterranean 1023B/17 and C. S. 7 1443B/17, for operation "Supercharge".  
 2200 Received air raid warning "Blue" from Alexandria. A.A shell bursts and flames were observed over Alexandria. "AJAX" reported R.D.F. contact with aircraft passing close to the Squadron, the nearest being four miles distant. No attack was made on the squadron and the ships did not open fire.

18th

Alexandria to Beirut and at Beirut.  
 0800 "NEPTUNE" parted company and proceeded to Haifa.  
 1137 Sighted one aircraft.  
 1143 Aircraft identified as friendly.  
 1355 Arrived Beirut. "HOBART" secured East side main wharf.

19th

At Beirut and from Beirut to Alexandria.  
 0820 "NEPTUNE" arrived from Haifa.  
 0920 Troops began to embark in ships of the Seventh Cruiser Squadron. "HOBART" embarked 23 Officers and 154 other ranks of the Advance Parties including Brigadier Lomax and his staff, and 10 officers and 448 other ranks of the 2nd Leicesters.  
 1010 Embarkation completed.  
 1045 Seventh Cruiser Squadron proceeded to sea.

General Lavrack, Officer commanding Australian Forces in Syria and Palestine arrived on the quay as "HOBART" was slipping, but did not come onboard as the breast lines had already been slipped.

1050 Squadron formed single line ahead and proceeded at 25 knots for Alexandria.  
 1200 Destroyers "HOTSPUR" and "S. RIFTER" joined company and took up screening diagram on the squadron.

20th

0630 Arrived Alexandria. "HOBART" secured to F.1 buoy. All ships of Seventh Cruiser Squadron disembarked troops.  
 0740 "KIMBERLEY" secured alongside "HOBART" and embarked advance party for transport to Tobruk. Remainder were landed in tugs.  
 0900 "HOBART" shifted berth to C.1 berth Namaria detached Breakwater securing at 0940. Completed with fuel.  
 1123 Air raid warning "yellow".  
 1435 Air raid warning "Green" - all clear.

(2)

September

- 21st At Alexandria.
- 22nd At Alexandria and at sea.  
At 1900 Seventh Cruiser Squadron proceeded to sea in accordance with C. in G., Mediterranean 1238B/22 to rendez-vous with Serial 8 of operation "Supercharge" at dawn 23rd September.  
2040 when hauling Paravanes, a buoy mooring wire was found to be foul of the starboard paravane cutter, and had been swept up the passage out of the searched channel. No damage was done to the paravane or towing gear.
- 23rd At sea and at Alexandria.  
0500 "TABDIHL", "WIPPLING", "JAGUAR" and "GRIFFIN" joined Seventh Cruiser Squadron in position arranged for rendez-vous, and formed a screen on passage to Alexandria, having successfully carried out Serial 8 of operation "Supercharge."  
0610 Four short range Hurricanes forming fighter protection for ships were sighted.  
1020 passed "LATONA", "JERVIS", "THIMBERIET" and "HASTY" westbound for Tobruk on Serial 9 of operation "Supercharge."  
1245 returned to Alexandria - "HOBART" secured in berth G.1 at Kamaria detached Breakwater. Completed with fuel.
- 24th At Alexandria.  
0915 Commander J.K. Walton, R.A.N. joined ship.
- 25th 1625 Air Raid Warning "Yellow".  
1652 Air Raid Warning "Green". - all clear.
- 26th At Alexandria and at sea.  
0900 Commander L.E. Tozer, R.A.N. left ship.  
0930 slipped and proceeded in company with 1st Battle Squadron consisting of "QUEEN ELIZABETH," flying the flag of Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean, "DARJAM", flying the flag of Vice Admiral 1st Battle Squadron, and "Valiant", Seventh Cruiser Squadron and eight destroyers, to carry out a sweep to the westward in accordance with C. in G., Mediterranean 0004B/26. A ninth destroyer joined the screen at sea. The object of the sweep was to divert the attention of the Italian and German forces from an important convoy proceeding to Malta from the westward.  
At dusk the cruisers were stationed 20 miles north north westward of the battlefleet, which turned to the eastward when the moon set.  
No contact with enemy surface, submarine or air force was made.
- 27th At sea and at Alexandria.  
The cruisers rejoined the battlefleet at 0800, and the fleet returned to Alexandria. "HOBART" secured in G.2 berth, Kamaria detached breakwater at 1400.
- 28th At 1130 Captain and officers were at "Home" to Officers R.A.N. Officers and Cruisers in the harbour, to mark the third anniversary of the ship's present commission.

(1)

September

- 29th      At Alexandria.  
1514 Air Raid Warning "Yellow."  
1525 Air Raid Warning "Green." - all clear.
- 30th      At Alexandria.  
1005 Air Raid Warning "Yellow."  
1025 Air Raid Warning "Green." - all clear.

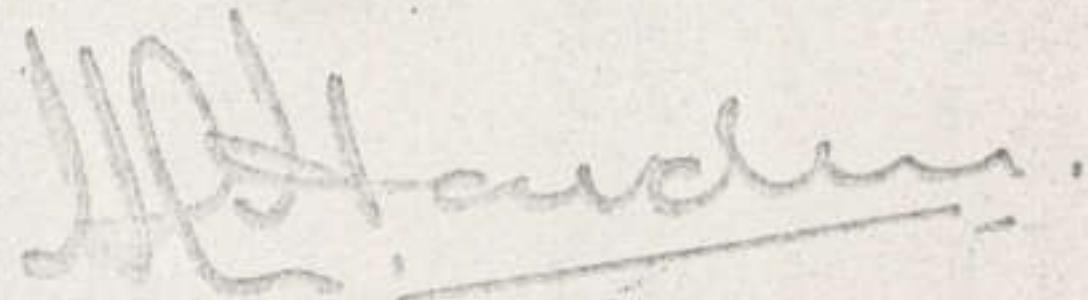
During the month training in all branches has continued satisfactorily. Two Leading Seamen passed for Petty Officer, and two Able Seamen for Leading Seamen. Four C.R. 3's completed a course, but were all drafted for an Officers training course immediately afterwards. Seven Communication staff ratings passed for higher non-substantive rating.

Progress has been made with the fitting of additional close range weapons, and one Breda is now fitted in front of the compass platform.

A temporary emergency R/T and W/T set type 60 has been fitted in the R.C.O., and work is in hand to replace the Gunnery Control set with a modern set type 52.

The Annual Inoculation of the ship's company is partly completed.

The health, conduct and spirit of the Ship's company continues to be most satisfactory.



CAPTAIN.

(7)

70261 7/432

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA  
ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY

REF ID: A11701

PLEASE RETURN TO  
NAVAL ARCHIVES BRANCH

From: The Commanding Officer, H.M.A.S. "HOBART".

Date: 6th November, 1941.

Number 177/23

To: The Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean Station.  
Copies to: The Rear Admiral Commanding, Seventh Cruiser Squadron.  
The Secretary, Naval Board, Navy Office, Melbourne.  
The Rear Admiral Commanding, R.M.A. Squadron.

SUBJECT:

WAR DIARY: 1st to 31st October, 1941.

Submitted for information, in accordance with Naval Board letter 034996, dated 8th November, 1940, the following War Diary for period 1st to 31st October, 1941.

(Times are Zone + 2)

Wednesday 1st At Alexandria.

1412: Air raid warning "Yellow"  
1450: All clear.

Thursday 2nd: At Alexandria and at sea for exercises.

0413: Air raid warning "Red".

0420: All clear.

1015: 1st Battle Squadron proceeded to sea with destroyer screen.

1135: "HOBART" slipped and proceeded to sea to join 1st B.S.

1450: "HOBART" acted as target for, and carried out a dummy torpedo attack on, 1st Battle Squadron, during R.D.P. Surface Detection exercise.

1545: 1st Battle Squadron with "HOBART" prolonging the line carried out R.D.P. U/B detection exercise.

1650: Exercises completed "HOBART" returned towards Alexandria independently.

1745: Boom reported closed and broken down. "HOBART" remained in the searched channel until the boom was reported three-quarters open at 2300, and then entered harbour and secured in C.2. berth. The Battleships and destroyers remained at sea until after daylight.

*80. 4/2*  
*Oct 41*  
*on S. 4/2*

Friday 3rd: At Alexandria.

0300: Secured in C.2. Berth on Kararia detached B seawater completed with fuel.  
It was noticed on entering harbour that S.S. "KURUMOGA", ammunition supply ship, had foundered at her buoy during the day. It was afterwards learned that an explosion forward had so damaged the ship that she sank at her moorings.  
During the day the pom pom was converted to fire high velocity ammunition and the ammunition was embarked, the low velocity ammunition being destroyed.

Saturday 4th: At Alexandria.

1909: Air raid warning "Red". Enemy planes reported within five miles of harbour. No firing took place.  
1930: All clear.  
2130: Air raid warning "Yellow"  
2142: All clear.

Sunday 5th: At Alexandria.

Monday 6th: At Alexandria.  
0242: Air raid warning "Yellow"  
0251: All clear.

Tuesday 7th: At Alexandria.  
Diving operations were commenced on S.S. "CHURACCA" divers from all ships assisting.

Wednesday 8th: At Alexandria.  
0813: Air raid warning "Yellow" 0840: All clear.  
0905: Air raid warning "Yellow" 0932: All clear.  
1405: Air raid warning "Yellow" 1420: All clear.

Thursday 9th: At Alexandria.  
Completed with fuel.  
2300: Movietone News Cameramen embarked in "HOBART".

Friday 10th: At Alexandria and at sea.  
0840: Destroyers, BARHAM, VALIANT, AJAX and HOBART proceeded to sea in accordance with V.A.L's signal 2159B/9/10 to provide cover for ships carrying out Operation "Cultivate" between Alexandria and Tobruk. A sweep to the North Westward was made at sixteen knots.  
1343: Air raid warning "Yellow".  
1346: Sighted two aircraft, probably enemy, bearing 260° approximately eight miles distant, which soon disappeared.  
1348: "Red" warning. Numerous R/D/F reports of aircraft were received but nothing more was seen of enemy planes. The fighter protection aircraft provided were often visible but R/T communication with them was not established.  
1406: "Yellow" warning. 1420 All clear.  
1509: "Red" warning. 1613 All clear.  
1653: "Yellow" warning. 1659 All clear.  
1655: "Yellow" warning. 1655 "Red" warning.  
1701: Air raid warning "Green" - all clear.  
At dusk "VALIANT" and "HOBART" prolonged the line of Battle-ships and the force turned to the Eastwards after dark.

Saturday 11th: At sea and at Alexandria.  
At dawn "HOBART" was eight miles to the Westward of the Battleships in order to carry out a Range and Inclination exercise in the changing light but as W/T communication failed the exercise was not carried out. "HOBART" rejoined the battleships and the force proceeded to Alexandria.  
0935: "HOBART" entered in C.I. berth at Harbour Detached Breakwater and completed with fuel. The Movietone News Cameramen, Mr. Prosser disembarked.

Sunday 12th: At Alexandria and at sea.  
At 0800 the Flag of G. in C. was transferred from QUEEN ELIZABETH to VICTORY and that of V.A.L from BARHAM to QUEEN ELIZABETH.  
At 0840 Destroyers, QUEEN ELIZABETH, BARHAM, AJAX, HOBART and GALATEA proceeded to sea in accordance with V.A.L's signal 2159/11/10 to carry out a sweep to the North Westward at 16 knots covering operation "Cultivate". HOBART was detailed to assume W/T guard on Italian Naval waves. At 1230 speed was increased to 21 knots and at 1330 to 22 knots.  
Aircraft of the fighter protection provided were often sighted but R/T communication with them was not established. Several R.D/F reports of aircraft were received but no enemy planes were sighted.

At dusk AJAX, HOBART and GALATEA with JERVIS, JAGUAR and JUPITER were detached to proceed to position 33° N. 24° 30' E. at twenty-five knots rejoining the Battleships at 0600 in position 33° N. 27° E. in accordance with C. in C's signal 1354B/12.

2118: Night alarm bearing 345° was received from JUPITER and flashing lights were seen on this bearing. Cruisers and screen altered course to close and JUPITER was detached to investigate.

2140: Cruisers resumed westerly course and JUPITER rejoined later having made no further reports. It was later learned that the lights were flares dropped by aircraft for wind finding.

Monday 17th:

At sea.

At midnight course was altered to the Eastward. 0222: sighted lights bearing 210° and made Night Alarm Bearing. These lights were probably shell bursts and flares over B and A.

0600: Rejoined Battleships steering South Eastward at 22 knots.

0617: "Red" warning. Aircraft proved to be friendly.

0637: "Yellow" warning. 0709: All clear.

1120: QUEEN ELIZABETH and RANDALL exercised fuelling destroyers at sea.

1344: Three Italian T/S aircraft surprised the fleet and carried out a torpedo attack from the Starboard Quarter, firing three torpedoes, all of which missed. The fire of the Fleet was erratic and all three planes escaped and withdrew to the westward.

1406: Cruisers and three destroyers were detached to precede the Battleships and remaining Destroyers through the searched channel to Alexandria.

1414: "Red" warning. 1450: "Green" - all clear.

1435: Course was reversed and the force rejoined and proceeded to repeat the operation carried out yesterday, Sunday, in accordance with C. in C. Mediterranean signal

1419B/13.

At 1204 a force of three Italian Cruisers and six destroyers had been reported by aircraft off Taranto proceeding to the South Eastward, and it was possible that they might continue their course.

At dusk AJAX, HOBART, GALATEA, JERVIS, RANDALL and JAGUAR were detached to proceed to the Westward at 25 knots and rejoin the Battleships at daylight.

At 2005 sighted flashing lights bearing 350° similar to those first reported by JUPITER on Sunday 12th. No action was taken. These were probably flares dropped from aircraft for wind finding.

Tuesday 18th: At sea and at Alexandria.

0342: "Red" warning. P.D./F records from "AJAX". Aircraft friendly.

0440: "Green" warning - all clear.

0540: Battleships and screen in sight. Cruisers and destroyers were taking station ahead of them when "Red" warning received from "AJAX" at 0540.

0550: GALATEA opened fire. HOBBIT fired in the same direction although nothing in sight. A friendly aircraft identified as a Wellington bomber was in the vicinity but not fired at.

0551: Battleships opened fire. 0553: Ceased fire.

0610: "Yellow" warning. 0626: "Green" warning - all clear

0640: Cruisers in station ahead of battleships and the force proceeded towards Alexandria at 21 knots.

1031: "Red" warning.

1035: Sighted three float planes bearing 130° distant

(4)

six miles and assumed them to be hostile.  
1036: Opened fire. Destroyers, GALATEA and Battleships also firing. Targets probably included our fighter protection aircraft in the vicinity.  
1038: Ceased firing. Apparently no hits obtained. It was learned later that the planes were friendly, being Dornier 22's of the Yugo Slav Air Force.  
1056: Cruisers and KANDAHAR were detached to precede the battleships and the remaining destroyers into harbour.  
1106: "Green" warning - all clear.  
1303: "Red" warning. Cruisers and KANDAHAR were inside Alexandria harbour. Battleships and destroyers in searched channel opened fire to Westward.  
1318: "Green" - all clear.  
1320: "HOBART" secured in C.2. berths Kamaria detached Breakwater and completed with fuel.

Wednesday 16th: At Alexandria.

1145: "Yellow" warning. 1207: "Green" warning - all clear

Thursday 16th: At Alexandria.

Friday 17th: At Alexandria.

0400: Red glow seen to westward. It was subsequently learned that R.A.F. Petrol Carrier "PASS OF KANDAHAR" had been torpedoed and sunk.  
1600: Funeral of Stoker R.R. Baker, O.W. S/4839 of HOBART who was killed ashore.

Saturday 18th: At Alexandria.

1445: "Yellow" warning. 1500: All clear.

Sunday 19th: At Alexandria.

2330: Reuters Correspondent, Massey Anderson and Movie-tone News Cameraman Prosser embarked in HOBART.

Monday 20th: At Alexandria and at sea.

0800: Dressed ship with masthead flags on the occasion of Beirum.  
0900: AJAK, HOBART, GALATEA, GRIFFIN and JAGUAR left Alexandria to carry out night bombardment of gun batteries East of Tobruk - Operation MED 21. An uneventful passage was made at 25 knots and ships turned to the firing course at 2320. Aircraft laid flares and spotted the fall of shots. In all 530 rounds of 6" were fired at a range of approximately 14,000 yards. No opposition was encountered and ships withdrew to the Northeastward on completion at midnight.

Tuesday 21st: At sea and at Alexandria.

At 0115 "GRIFFIN" was torpedoed by submarine about 60 miles to the Northwest of the 7th Cruiser Squadron.  
At 0615 GRIFFIN and JAGUAR were detached to go to the assistance of GNAT but were recalled soon afterwards.  
At 0700 rendezvous was made with LATONA and ENCOUNTER and all ships proceeded in company to Alexandria.  
LATONA, ENCOUNTER, NIZAM and KINGSTON had been carrying out Serial 5 of Operation "Cultivate" - exchange of troops at Tobruk. NIZAM and KINGSTON had been detached to assist GNAT but had been recalled and were following up the LATONA.  
0750: ENCOUNTER parted company.  
0930: GRIFFIN and JAGUAR were detached to assist GNAT who had reported she was streling and had lost steering way.  
1010: Passed Serial 6 of operation "Cultivate" - ABDIEL and five destroyers proceeding to Tobruk.

1100: Passed JERVIS, JUPITER and KANDAHAR proceeding to Westward to carry out night bombardment at Bardia.  
 1330: Entered Alexandria harbour and scoured in C.2. berth Kamaria detached Breakwater. Completed with fuel and ammunition. Reuters Correspondent and Movietone News Cameraman disembarked having recorded various phases of the operation. During the afternoon GRIFFIN reported having taken CNAT in tow.

Wednesday 22nd: At Alexandria.

Thursday 23rd: At Alexandria and at Sea.

At 0900 AJAX, HOBART, NEPTUNE, NAZIR, NIZAM, JUPITER, HASTY, AVON DALE and BRIDGE proceeded to sea to carry out night bombardment of Bardia and Sollum areas - Operation MEA P2.

1140: Passed CNAT being towed stern first to Alexandria.  
 1226: Passed Serial 7 of Operation "Cultivate" returning to Alexandria with Australian troops from Tobruk.  
 1514: "Yellow" warning. Aircraft identified as friendly.  
 1516: "Green" warning - all clear.  
 1537: "Yellow" warning. Aircraft identified and friendly.  
 1536: "Green" warning - all clear.  
 2200: Obtained geographical fix from temporary lights shown ashore near Sidi Barrak.  
 2300: NAZIR, NIZAM, JUPITER and HASTY parted company and proceeded to bombard Sollum area.

Friday 24th: At sea and at Alexandria.

0002: Aircraft illuminated and bombed Bardia.  
 0040: AJAX opened fire on Petrol Storage area which contained a large white house believed to be Headquarters.  
 0053: HOBART and NEPTUNE opened fire. 360 rounds of 6" were fired altogether and the spotting aircraft reported the target as repeatedly hit.  
 Shore batteries opened fire on the ships and shells were seen to fall about 1,000 yards over the cruisers. Star shell were also fired from the shore.  
 0105: Ceased firing and withdrew to the East-Northeastwards at 27 knots.

0300: Set course for Alexandria.

0925: Sighted serial 9 of Operation "Cultivate" proceeding towards Tobruk.

1130: Entered Alexandria Harbour. HOBART scoured to C.1. berth Kamaria detached Breakwater. Completed with fuel and ammunition.

Saturday 25th: At Alexandria and at sea.

1400 AJAX HOBART NEPTUNE NAZIR NIZAM and HASTY forming Force "A" and JERVIS JAGUAR JUPITER and KIMBERLY forming Force "B" proceeded to sea in company and proceeded to Westward to carry out bombardment of Bardia and Sollum - Operation MEA P3.

1500: Passed Serial 9 of Operation "Cultivate" proceeding Eastwards.

2048: Received signal reporting LATONA, which with HERO, HOTSPUR and ENCOUNTER formed serial 10 of Operation "Cultivate" hit by aircraft torpedo and fifteen minutes later by bomb and on fire. Her position was approximately 120 miles to the west-northwestward and Force "B" was detached to assist; the bombardment of Sollum being cancelled.

HERO was near missed and her steering gear disabled at 2140 and at 2245 HOTSPUR and ENCOUNTER with HERO in company proceeded to Eastwards at 10 knots, having sunk LATONA and rescued survivors. LATONA had a number of Australian soldiers onboard. Later Force "B" took over the escort of HERO and HOTSPUR and ENCOUNTER returned

to Alexandria at full speed.

2330: A geographical fix was obtained on temporary lights exhibited near Sidi Barani and force "A" proceeded towards Bardia.

Sunday

- 26th: 0147: AJAX opened fire.  
 0149: HOBART and NEPTUNE opened fire at a range of approximately 22,000 yards. Aircraft spotting reported repeated hits on the target, a gun repair shop and depot.  
 0158: Shifted target to a water tower and motor transport depot. The three ships fired 360 rounds of 6" in all. Shore batteries opened fire and projectiles were noticed falling a long way short (2,600 yards or more). On completion of the bombardment the spotting aircraft signalled "Wizard shooting".  
 0202: Ceased fire and proceeded to East-Northeastwards at 27 knots.  
 During all three recent bombardments the spotting and flare dropping aircraft have carried out their duties with great skill and success.  
 Press cutting from the "Egyptian Mail" concerning this bombardment is attached to the A.O.N.B. copy.  
 0330: Set course for Alexandria.  
 1200: Force "A" arrived Alexandria. HOBART secured in C.I. berth at Kamaria detached breakwater.  
 Completed with fuel and ammunition.  
 1400: JAGUAR JUPITER and KIMBERLEY returned to harbour.  
 1550: HERO returned to harbour with steering gear out of action.

Monday 27th: At Alexandria.

Tuesday 28th: At Alexandria.

- 1440: "Yellow" warning.  
 1450: "Red" warning. Opened fire on enemy reconnaissance plane.  
 1454: Ceased firing. 1500 "Green" warning - all clear.

Wednesday 29th: At Alexandria.

- 0500: "Yellow" warning. Enemy planes reported in vicinity. No firing.  
 0510: "Green" warning - all clear.  
 0955: Completed with ammunition.  
 1045: "Yellow" warning. 1858 "Red" warning.  
 Numerous small formations of enemy aircraft were reported and ship and shore batteries opened fire intermittently. HOBART fired 73 rounds of 4" H.A. ammunition. A few bombs were dropped, but none near HOBART.  
 2020: "Green" warning - all clear.  
 2030: "Yellow" warning. 2050: "Green" warning - all clear.  
 2333: "Yellow" warning. 2342: "Green" warning - all clear.

Thursday 30th: At Alexandria.

- 1020: Completed with ammunition.  
 1225: "Yellow" warning. 1315: "Green" warning - all clear. It was later learned that the enemy aircraft had dropped bombs at, but failed to hit, ships of the 14th Destroyer Flotilla, 38 miles West of Ras-el-Tin.  
 1830: "Yellow" warning. 1840: "Red" warning. Enemy planes in vicinity. No firing.  
 1904: "Green" warning - all clear.

Friday 31st: At Alexandria.

Distance steamed in October 3030 miles.

The ship's vibration has been excessive during recent high

O

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speed operations due to heavy fouling of ship's bottom. Ship was to have dry docked for cleaning towards the end of October, but the Floating Dock was required for damaged ships. Expect to dock during second week in November.

Total distance steamed from 3rd September, 1939 to 31st October, 1940 - 135,291 miles.

MONTH'S ACTIVITIES:

All night leave to part of a watch on four occasions, so that all ratings have had the opportunity of taking all night leave on one occasion.

General training in Gunnery, Torpedo and seamanship continued satisfactorily.

A second Broda has been fitted in front of the Compass Platform and the two Oerlikon guns fitted one either side of the after superstructure. A shield has been fitted round these close range weapons and round the Pom Pom on the catapult structure.

The annual inoculation of the Ship's company was completed during the month.

In competitive signal exercises HOBART was very successful, particularly the night exercises for the watch on deck, in which "HOBART" was placed first in the fleet on five out of eight possible occasions.

The month's sporting activities were not numerous. One cricket match was played and won, four hockey matches played of one was won, and two drawn; three Rugby matches were played and won, and two Soccer games lost.

The health of the Ship's company remains very satisfactory.

They are keen and alert and their admirable spirit is a matter of great pride.

*J.H. Harwood*

CAPTAIN.

~~SECRET/RESTRICTED~~

2026/71432

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PLEASE RETURN TO  
NAVAL ARCHIVES BRANCH

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY

From: The Commanding Officer, H.M.A.S. "HOBART".

Date: 4th December, 1941. No. 177/23.

To : The Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean Station.

Copies to: The Rear Admiral Commanding, Seventh Cruiser Squadron.

The Secretary, Naval Board, Navy Office,

Melbourne.

The Rear Admiral Commanding, H.M.A. Squadron.

SUBJECT: WAR DIARY 1st - 30th NOVEMBER, 1941.

Submitted for consideration, in accordance with Naval Board Letter 034996, dated 8th November, 1940, the following War Diary.

(All times Zone - 2)

At Alexandria:

Saturday 1st: 0726: Yellow warning. 0735: All clear.  
0320: Yellow warning. 0840: All clear.  
1219: Yellow warning. 1225: All clear.  
2040: Yellow warning. 2055: All clear.

No enemy planes were sighted during the day.

Sunday 2nd:

0007: Yellow warning. 0027: All clear.  
0355: Yellow warning. 0420: All clear.  
2143: Yellow warning. 2145: Red warning.  
One shore battery fired two rounds when R.D.F. reported enemy aircraft within five miles, but no other firing was observed.  
2220: All clear.

Monday 3rd:

1305: Yellow warning.  
1315: "KIRLING" towed into harbour with engines defective.  
1320: All clear.  
1440: Yellow warning. 1445: All clear.  
2110: Yellow warning. 2120: All clear.

Tuesday 4th:

Wednesday 5th:

Thursday 6th: 0930: Captain Howden presided at Court Martial summoned onboard H.M.C. "VALIANT".

Friday 7th:

0509: Yellow warning. 0523: All clear.  
0623: Yellow warning. 0650: All clear.  
Enemy planes reported by R.D.F. apparently re-

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-2-

0800: Turning from a raid on the Suez Canal Area.  
 Dressed ship with masthead flags on the occasion of U.S.S.R. National Day.

1015: Yellow warning. 1036: All clear.

Saturday 8th: 0645: Yellow warning. 0710: All clear.  
 0800: Dressed ship with masthead flags on the occasion of U.S.S.R. National Day (2nd Day).  
 1620: Embarked two Oerlikon Mark II guns.

Sunday 9th: 0035: Yellow warning. 0037: Red warning.  
 One shore battery opened fire - fired four or five rounds. Aircraft were reported by R.D.F. as close as 5½ miles but they steered clear of Alexandria and flew off in the Suez Canal direction.

0105: All clear.  
 0112: Yellow warning. 0130: All clear.  
 0646: Yellow warning. 0648: All clear.  
 1045: Yellow warning. 1220: All clear.  
 Enemy planes apparently had been carrying out reconnaissance to the Westward of Alexandria. No enemy planes were sighted.

Monday 10th: 1312: Yellow warning. 1345: All clear.

Tuesday 11th: 1149: Yellow warning. 1223: All clear.  
 1445: Yellow warning. 1449: All clear.  
 Aircraft friendly.

Wednesday 12th: At Alexandria and at sea.

1100: "HOBART" proceeded to sea for exercises.  
 1315: Carried out three runs 6" sub-calibre firing at B.P.T. towed by S.M. TSETY.  
 1330: One aircraft from H.M.S. "GRIMSEY" took photographs of "HOBART".  
 1415: Carried out 4" full calibre H.A. firings at sleeve target towed by aircraft from H.M.S. "GRIMSEY".  
 1536: Carried out close range H.A. firings at sleeve target firing Pom Pom, Oerlikons and 0.5" Machine guns.  
 1645: Carried out Range and Inclination exercise with "QUEEN ELIZABETH" escorted by four destroyers.  
 1720: Closed "QUEEN ELIZABETH" and took station 5 cables astern.  
 1830: "QUEEN ELIZABETH" carried out night 15" and 4.5" full calibre firings at B.P.T.  
 1852: "HOBART" carried out 6" full calibre firing at B.P.T.  
 2040: "HOBART" took station 10 miles astern of "QUEEN ELIZABETH".  
 2100: Carried out night encounter exercise with "QUEEN ELIZABETH".  
 2120: Took station 5 cables astern of "QUEEN ELIZABETH" and shaped course for return to Alexandria Harbour.  
 2300: "HOBART" ordered to act independently and return to Alexandria. to harbour.

Thursday 13th: 0115: Spoured in O.I. berth Kamaria Detached Breakwater and completed with fuel.

It was noticed on return to harbour that S.S. "CHURRUCA" had been raised and was afloat with a pronounced list to starboard.

1000: Yellow warning. 1047: All clear.

1150: Yellow warning. 1158: All clear.

Friday 14th:

Saturday 15th: 1120: H.M.A. Ships "PARALIMENTA" and "YAKRA" arrived Alexandria.  
 1215: Lieutenant M. J. Archer R.N., on loan to R.A.N. joined ship from "TITLE" vice LESLEY.  
 1350: Yellow air raid warning.  
 1410: All clear.

Sunday 16th November, 1941:

At Alexandria and at Sea in Eastern Mediterranean

Monday 17th : 0813: Yellow air raid warning.  
 0930: All clear.  
 0845: H.M.A.S. "YAKRA" proceeded to sea.  
 0855: H.M.A.S. "PARALIMENTA" proceeded to sea.  
 1000: Lieutenant Commander J. S. LESLEY, R.A.N. discharged to "TITLE" to await passage to Australia.  
 1104: Slipped from Mamaria Breakwater and proceeded to sea in company with C.S. 7 in "AJAX", "NEPTUNE", "MANDARIN", "HASTY" and "HOTSPUR" for operation P.4. (Bombardment of Halfaya Pass, near Sollum)  
 British Military offensive in Cyrenaica commenced at dawn.

Tuesday 18th: 0015: Operation P.4 abandoned due to adverse weather conditions. (Heavy rain and violent thunder storm)  
 Set course to rendezvous with V.A. One in position  $31^{\circ} 50' N$ ,  $23^{\circ} 45' E$ .  
 1105: Joined company with V.A. One in "QUEEN ELIZABETH", "VALIANT", "BAREAM" 15th C.S. and destroyers. Fleet proceeded to sweep to westward until dark.  
 1703: Air raid warning "Red".  
 1730: C.S. 15 in "NIAZ", with "LUNYALUS", "KILLING" and "JACKAL" parted company to carry out bombardment of Halfaya Pass.  
 1815: 7th C.S. with "MANDARIN" and "HASTY" parted company, and took station  $115^{\circ}$  10 miles from V.A. 1.  
 1825: All clear.  
 1900: Course of fleet altered to eastward.

Wednesday 19th: 0615: Entered Alexandria harbour and secured in No. 7 berth  
 1725: Yellow air raid warning.  
 1747: All clear.

Thursday 20th On account of excessive vibration aft, it was decided not normally to exceed 24 knots until after "ROBANT" had next been in dock.  
 1115: Slipped from No. 7 berth, and proceeded to sea in company with C.S. 7 in "AJAX", "NEPTUNE", "HEYTHOREE", "AVONDALE", "ERIDGES" and "FARNDALE" for operation P.5. (Bombardment of Bardia - Tobruk road, five miles north west of Bardia.)  
 1820: Observed air raid in progress on Mersa Matruh. Blue Air Raid Warning.  
 1943 All clear.

-14-

- Friday      21st  0146-0206 carried out bombardment. Spotting aircraft reported several direct hits on target.
- 0210: Shaped course to eastward to rendezvous with C.-in-C. Mediterranean in position 31° 43' north, 29° 05' east, who was proceeding to sea in support of operation "Lendmark" from Malta.
- 0930: Two unidentified aircraft sighted to northward. Probably enemy reconnaissance machines.
- 1200: Joined company with C.-in-C. Mediterranean in "QUEEN ELIZABETH", "VALIANT", "BARTHAM," C.S.25 and destroyers. Fleet proceeded to sweep westward until dark.
- 1652: "Yellow" air raid warning.
- 1657: "Red" air raid warning.
- 1700: Ships opened fire on enemy reconnaissance aircraft flying down port side of fleet.
- 1730: All clear. 7th C.S. parted company with C.-in-C. to take station on bearing 310° 15'.
- 1930: Course of fleet altered to eastward to return to Alexandria.
- Saturday    22nd  0706: Entered Alexandria harbour and secured in No.7 berth.
- 2109: "Yellow" air raid warning.
- 2138: All clear.
- At Alexandria,
- Sunday      23rd  1759: "Yellow" air raid warning.
- 1802 All clear.
- Monday     24th  0415: Destroyers proceeded to sea.
- 0430: 7th C.S. (less "HOBART") and 15th C.S. proceeded to sea.
- 0600: "HOBART" came to two hours notice for steam. Also "QUEEN ELIZABETH", "BARTHAM", "VALIANT", "DEMOULY" and "GRIFFIN."
- 0830: Dockyard work commenced on pom pom mounting on quarterdeck
- 1400: Mr Turner, Official Naval Photographer, joined ship.
- 1500: Mr Norton, Official Naval Artist, discharged to work with R.A.A.P.
- 1645: 1st Battle Squadron and destroyers proceeded to sea.
- A feeling of gloom prevailed, the ship knowing that the remaining ships of the squadron were operating on the enemy shipping routes, while "HOBART" was left in harbour awaiting docking for the removal of particularly heavy marine growth.
- Tuesday    25th  1300: Sub Lieutenant Heriot, R.A.N.R. joined ship
- 1420: Slipped from No.7 berth and proceeded to floating dock for quick docking.
- 1510: Secured in dock.
- IN FLOATING DOCK.
- Wednesday 26th  1050: 1st Battle Squadron with escorting destroyers entered harbour, bringing with them a number of survivors of H.M.S. ... , torpedoed the previous afternoon.

Commander BARTHAM

(1)

1645-1800, C.S.7 in "AJAX" with "NEPTUNE", C.S.15 in "NAIAD" with "EURYALUS" and escorting destroyers entered harbour  
 1846: "Yellow" air raid warning.  
 1850: All clear.

Thursday 27th      0100: H.M.A.S. "PARRAMATTA" torpedoed by "U" boat in position 30 miles north east of Tobruk.  
 0400: C.S.7 in "AJAX" with "NEPTUNE", C.S.15 in "NAIAD" with "EURYALUS" and escorting destroyers proceeded to sea.  
 0720: Commenced flooding floating dock.  
 0724: "Yellow" air raid warning.  
 0738: All clear.  
 1030: Commenced undocking.  
 1210: Secured alongside G.L. berth at Kamaria Breakwater.

Friday 28th      0840: C.S.15 in "NAIAD" with "EURYALUS" and escorting destroyers entered harbour.  
 1200: "HOBART" came to one hours notice for steam and assumed the duties of emergency cruiser.  
 1800: Captain and Commander addressed Ship's Company on the subject of the loss of H.M.A.S. "PARRAMATTA". The Captain confirmed the rumours that there was only a small number of survivors.

Saturday 29th      0800: "HOBART" reverted to normal notice for steam  
 0820: "Yellow" air raid warning.  
 0825: All clear.

Sunday 30th      1130: All known survivors of "PARRAMATTA" except those in hospital were entertained onboard.  
 1245: C.S.15 in "NAIAD" with "EURYALUS" and escorting destroyers proceeded to sea.  
 1525: "Yellow" air raid warning.  
 1630: All clear.

Total distance steamed during November 1785 mile

#### MONTHS ACTIVITIES.

All night leave was granted to a part of the watch on the two nights spent in dock.

The training programme in Gunnery, Torpedo and seamanship has progressed satisfactorily, and "HOBART" has continued to be successful in the fleet signal exercises.

Apart from eight games of rugby, of which six were won, there has not been a great deal of sporting activities during the month, as some difficulty was experienced in making fixtures on account of ship's movements.

The health of the Ship's Company remains most satisfactory, and their conduct during the month has been of a very high standard.

*W. H. Steeden.*  
CAPTAIN.

(5)

2026 17/432.

RECEIVED  
26 JAN P.M.  
ADMIRALTY DEPT.

## COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

## ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY.

RESTRICTED  
10/3/44PLEASE RETURN TO  
NAVAL ARCHIVES BRANCH

From: The Commanding Officer, H.M.A.S. "HOBART."

Date: 10th January, 1942. No. 177/23.

To : The Secretary, Naval Board, Navy Office, Melbourne.  
Copy to: The Rear Admiral Commanding, H.M.A. Squadron.

## SUBJECT

## WAR DIARY 1st - 3rd DECEMBER, 1941.

Submitted for consideration, in accordance with Naval Board Letter 034996, dated 8th November, 1940, the following War Diary.

(Zone time in force is noted opposite each date.)

## At Alexandria.

Monday	1st (-2)	0920: Exercised Action Stations 1728: "Yellow" air raid warning 1730: "Red" air raid warning 1740: All clear. 2055: "Yellow" air raid warning 2100: "Red" air raid warning 2125: All clear. 2310: "Yellow" air raid warning 2300: All clear.
Tuesday	2nd (-2)	0200: "Red" air raid warning 0225: All clear. 0312: "Yellow" air raid warning 0314: All clear. 1010: "Yellow" air raid warning 1306: All clear. 1233: "Yellow" air raid warning 1240: All clear.
Wednesday	3rd (-2)	0110: "MATAD" and "EDITHIANA" entered harbour. 1307: Native workmen fatally injured whilst employed on the installation of pom pom mounting on quarterdeck. 2202: "Yellow" air raid warning 2215: All clear.
Thursday	4th (-2)	Foam fire fighting apparatus received on board.
Friday	5th (-2)	1604: "Yellow" air raid warning 1611: All clear.

(4)

At Sea operating in the Eastern Mediterranean.

- Saturday 6th (-2) 0842: "Yellow" air raid warning  
 0854: All clear  
 1045: "Yellow" air raid warning  
 1115: All clear  
 1240: Slipped and proceeded from "X.2" berth.  
 1301: Took "GALATEA", "CARLISILE", "GRIFFIN" and "HORNSPUR" under my orders and proceeded out of harbour to rendezvous with H.M.S. "BRECONSHIRE", "KUMMERLEY" and "KINSTON" approximately 60 miles south of Crete, and escort them back to Alexandria.
- Sunday 7th (-2) 0800: In station, screening "BRECONSHIRE". Set course for Alexandria.  
 1205: Sighted an unidentified aircraft. "Red" air raid warning. No attack developed.  
 1600: Intercepted signals from H.M.A.S. "TARNA" reporting that she was being attacked by aircraft off Tobruk. She was slightly damaged.

At Alexandria.

- Monday 8th (-2) 0400: Entered Alexandria Harbour  
 0500: Secured head and stern in No. 7 berth  
 0734: "Yellow" air raid warning  
 0743: All clear.  
 1207: "Yellow" air raid warning  
 1211: All clear  
 1214: "Yellow" air raid warning  
 1225: All clear

At Alexandria and en passage to Aden.

- Tuesday 9th (-2) 0956: "Yellow" air raid warning  
 1023: All clear  
 1245: "Yellow" air raid warning  
 1335: All Clear.  
 1420: Lieutenant Commander Hamilton, R.N. joined ship for passage.  
 During the afternoon a four barrel pom pom, the work on the mounting of which had already been commenced by Alexandria Dockyard, was embarked in its packing case, and stowed in the starboard waist. Stores required for passage were also embarked.  
 1700: Came to one hours notice for steam  
 1750: Slipped from No. 7 berth, and proceeded out of harbour en route to Suez and Aden.  
 1805: Passed gate,
- Wednesday 10th (-2) 0626: Embarked pilot off Port Said. Proceeded up harbour and commenced transit of Suez Canal at 0730.  
 1625: Arrived Suez. Stopped to disembark pilot, and receive N.O.I.C. Suez representative. By this time all onboard were in high spirits, as they were fully confident that the ship was bound for Australia.  
 1655: Proceeded on passage to Aden. Speed on passage 24 knots.

At Aden and en passage to Colombo.

- Saturday 13th (-3) 0515: sighted and challenged H.M.S. "CHRIES", with convoy. (Had received no information that she was in the vicinity.)  
 0645: Entered Aden.  
 0700: Secured in No.4 oiling berth.  
 Embarked fuel and provisions  
 1210: Slipped from No.4 berth and proceeded  
 1235: Passed Boom and proceeded on passage to Colombo.
- Sunday 14th (-4) 1200: Identified Panamanian ship S.S. "ATLANTIC GULF" in position  $12^{\circ} 48'$  north,  $52^{\circ} 18'$  east.
- Monday 15th (-4) During the afternoon a signal was received from the Commander-in-Chief, East Indies instructing "HOBART" to investigate reports of unrest among the natives, on the Island of Minikoi, from which no news had been received for several days. Course and speed were therefore adjusted, so as to arrive off the northern side of the Island, half an hour after sunrise, two days later.
- Tuesday 16th (-5) 0915: Exercised Damage Control.  
 1655: Identified "GEORGIOS POTAMIANOS".
- Wednesday 17th (-5) 0715: Lowered pinnace off northern entrance to Minikoi Atoll, which proceeded in shore with Landing Party under the command of Lieutenant J.W. Bain, R.A.N.R.(S). "HOBART" patrolled off island.  
 1130: Pinnace met the ship off the northern entrance and was rehoisted. It was found that there had been trouble ashore of a minor nature, but everything was now in order. A full report was forwarded in "HOBART'S" 5241/170/23 dated 17 Dec. 1941  
 2145: Set course for Colombo.  
 2315: Identified S.S. "ELATEGOVA."

At Colombo.

- Thursday 18th (-5½) 0935: Entered Colombo Harbour  
 1030: Secured in No.2 berth. Embarked oil fuel and provisions.
- Friday 19th (-5½) 0910: Shifted berth to Guide Pier, to enable Cockyard to complete work of mounting the pom pom on the quarterdeck, which had been interrupted by "HOBART'S" departure from Alexandria.
- Saturday 20th (-5½) 1050: Lieutenant Commander Hamilton discharged ashore for onward passage to Singapore.
- Sunday 21st (-5½) 1422: "Yellow" air raid warning.  
 1435: All clear - aircraft friendly.
- Monday 22nd (-5½) Mounting of the pom pom on the quarter-deck was completed during the afternoon.

Tuesday 23rd (-5½) 0700: Shifted berth from Guide Pier to No.3 berth.  
 0820: H.M.S. "MANOOBA" entered harbour.  
 0955: Exercised damage control.

At Colombo and en passage to Singapore.

Wednesday 24th (-5½) 1215: Embarked five officers and 56 ratings for passage to Australia.  
 2000: Slipped from No.3 berth and proceeded to sea with H.M.S. "FALMOUTH" to rendezvous with Convoy E.M.9.A (Bombay to Singapore), and take over escort from H.M.S. "GLASGOW."

Thursday 25th (-5½) 0800: Relieved H.M.S. "GLASGOW" as escort of convoy. "HOBART" took station astern, and "FALMOUTH", with "SCHOUTEN", who had already escorted the convoy from Bombay, acted as an A/S screen ahead. The ships in the convoy were "DEVONSHIRE", "LANSFIELD", "WARWICK", "ENIOPIA" and "RAJPUTA" all carrying troops, and were able to maintain a speed of 12 knots. "HOBART" was to be relieved by "DRAGON", "DURBAN" and "VAMPIRE" on reaching longitude 94° east, proceeding thence to Fremantle.

Friday 26th (-5½) 0930: "FALMOUTH" reported an A/S contact on the starboard side of the convoy, and dropped back to investigate. She remained in the vicinity of her contact for over an hour and dropped two patterns of depth charges without result. Her slow speed, made it impossible for her to rejoin the convoy before dawn the following morning.

Saturday 27th (-6½) "FALMOUTH" and "SCHOUTEN" parted company with convoy, and returned to Colombo.

Sunday 28th (-7) During the first watch, the Commander-in-Chief, Far Eastern Fleet's signal 10345/20 was received, instructing "HOBART" to proceed to Singapore with convoy.

Monday 29th (-7½) 0925: Exercised Damage Control.

Tuesday 30th (-7½) 1200: Rendezvoused with "DRAGON", "DURBAN" and "VAMPIRE" in position 06° 20' south, 90° 00' east.

Wednesday 31st (-7½) 1427: A fast merchant vessel, which bore a striking resemblance to the German raider "ATLANTIS" was sighted bearing 125° steering approximately 300°. Her speed was estimated as 17 knots, and "DRAGON" was instructed to investigate. "DRAGON" first of all reported that the ship was the Panamanian "WICHAWAY", and as no record of such a ship could be found in "HOBART", "DRAGON" was told to board her. It was then discovered that she was the Panamanian "AGOSTA" (ex Danish "LEKA MAERSK"), and was allowed to proceed.

(1)

-5-

1600: H.M.Ships "JUPITER" and "ENCOUNTER" joined the escort, and formed an A/S screen with "VAMPIRE."

GENERAL.

The training of the Ship's Company has progressed satisfactorily during the month, and plenty of keenness has been shown.

Sporting activities have been distinctly limited, on account of the large number of days spent at sea. Whilst at Colombo "HOBART" played rugby against H.M.S. "MAURITIUS" and won.

The conduct of the Ship's Company has continued to be very satisfactory, and their behaviour ashore exemplary.

H. H. Stuckey

CAPTAIN.

AWM 78