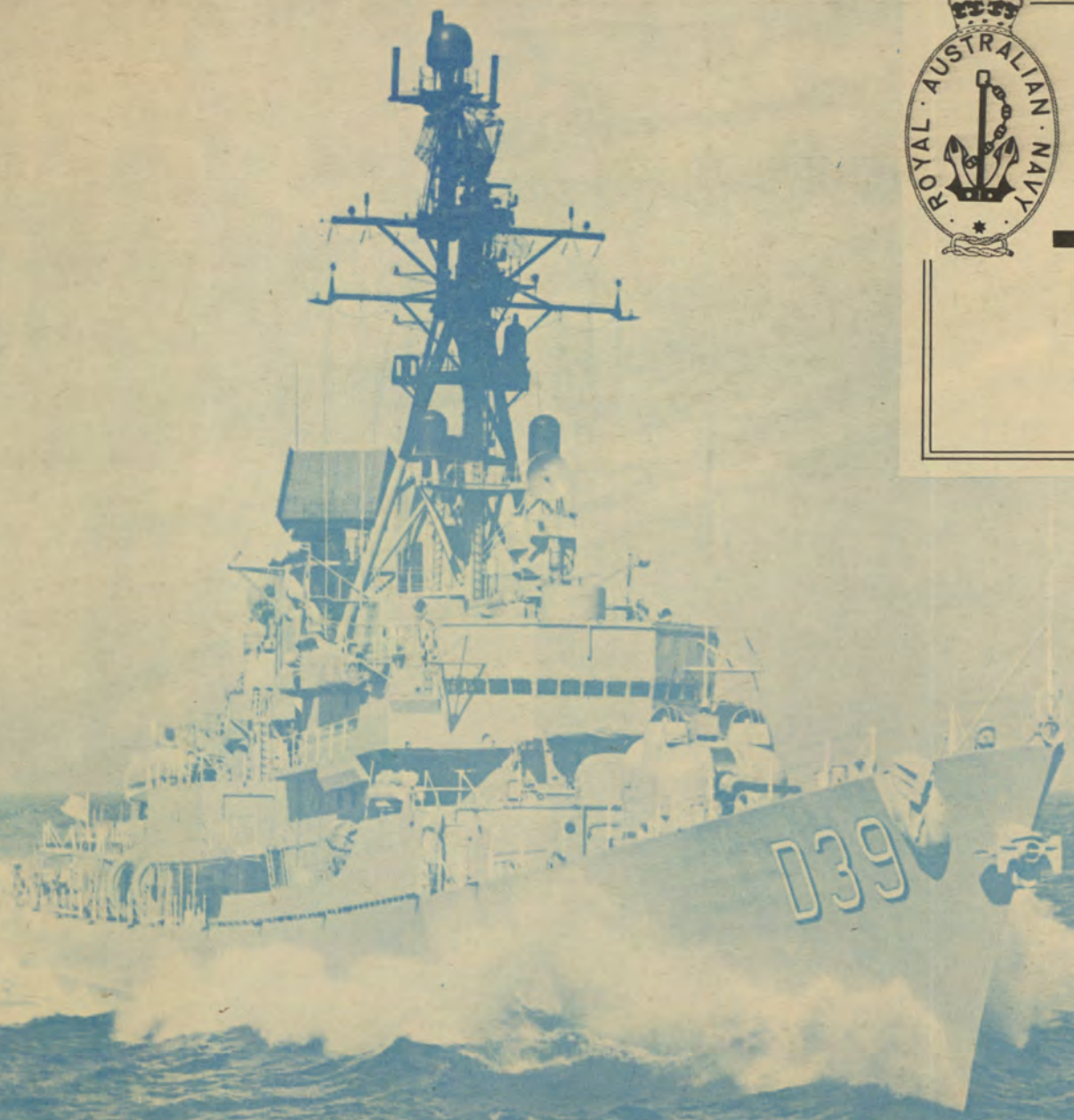


1968 Booklet.

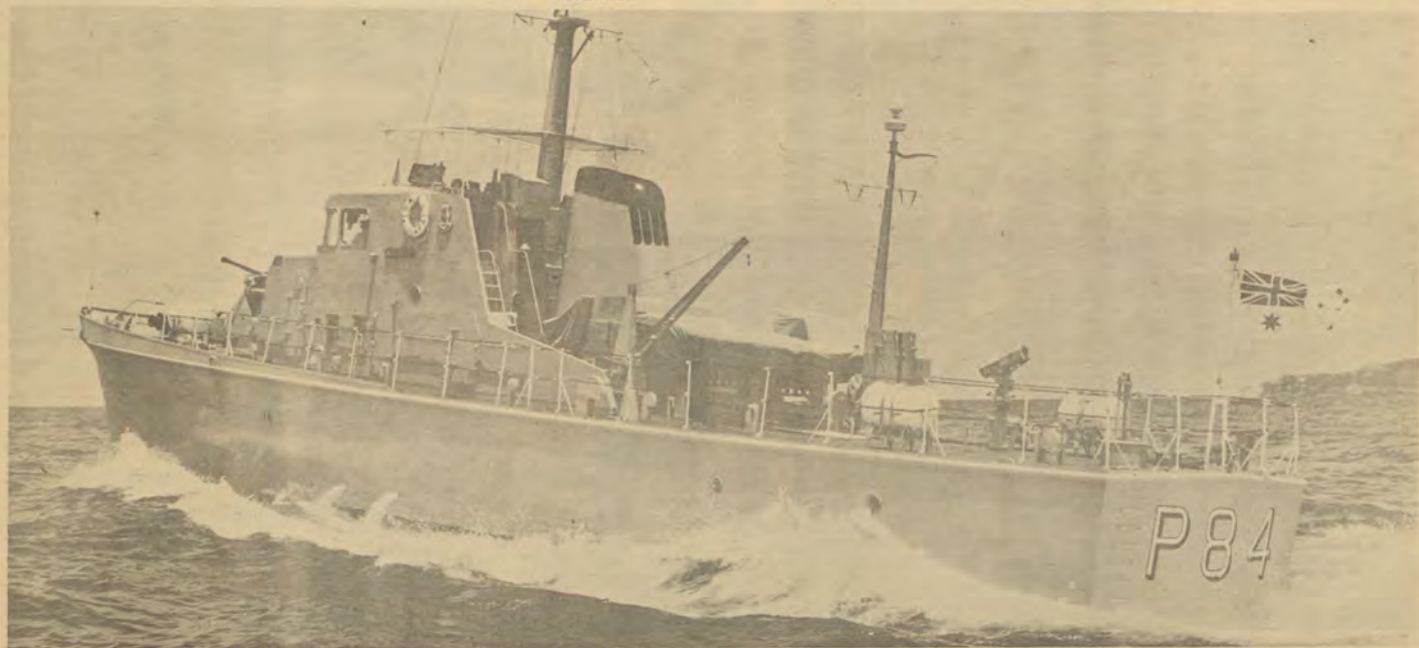


# NAVY TODAY

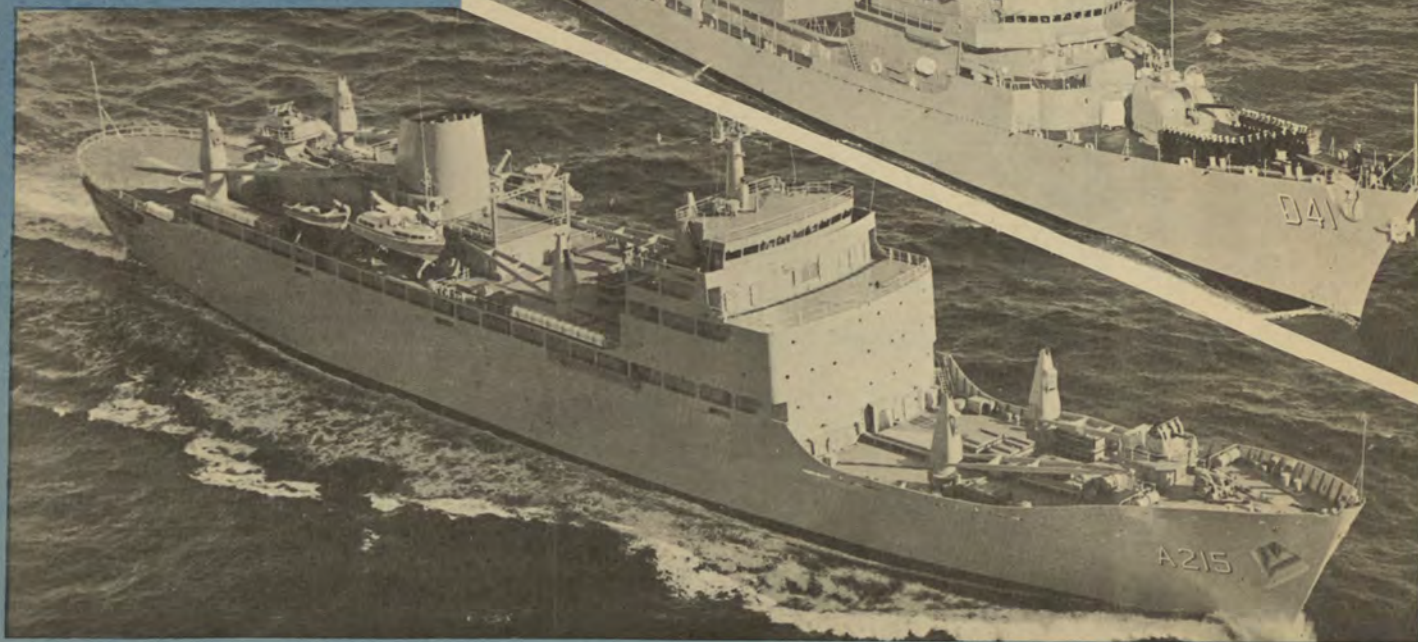
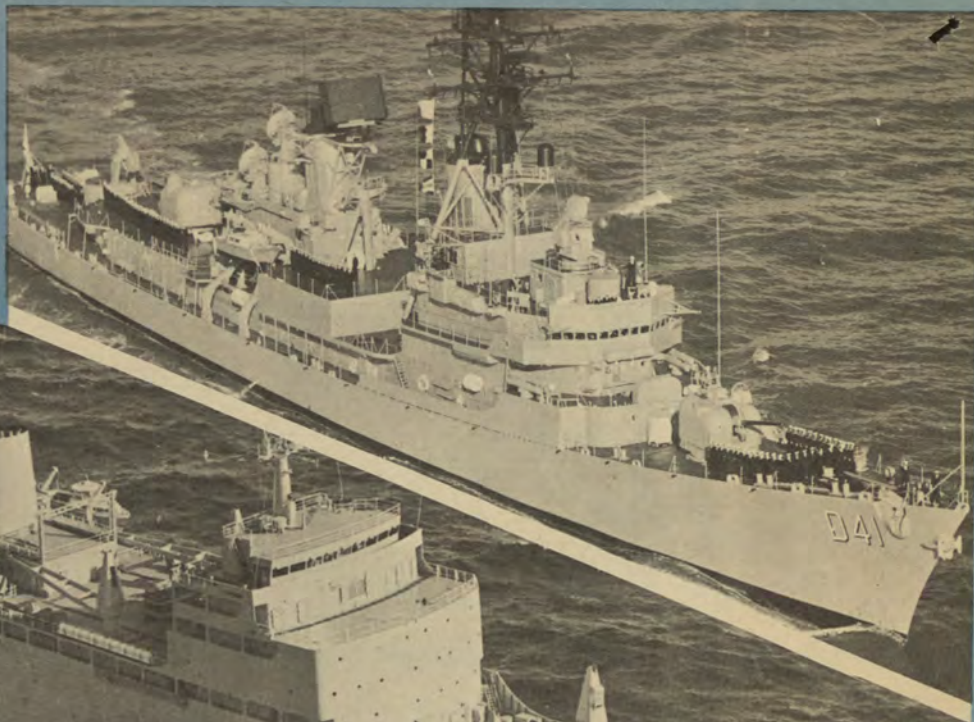


NEW SHIPS which have joined the Australian Fleet include the guided missile destroyer HMAS BRISBANE and the destroyer tender HMAS STALWART (opposite page). Below —new patrol boat HMAS AITAPE.

**T**HE Royal Australian Navy continues to grow with new ships being added to the Fleet and more on order. Recent newcomers include HMAS BRISBANE, which is Australia's third ship of her class, HMAS STALWART, which is the biggest naval ship yet built in Australia, the first of 20 Australian-built patrol boats, and the second of four Oberon-class submarines which are being built in the U.K. Now building are two additional destroyer escorts, more patrol boats, two more Oberons and various support craft.



*New ships  
for the  
navy*





NEW ANTI-SUBMARINE strength of the Navy. Left — Tracker anti-submarine aircraft over HMAS OXLEY. Above — Newly converted, higher performance Wessex 31B anti-submarine helicopters.

# Fleet Air Arm

The Fleet Air Arm has been revitalised with new Skyhawk and Tracker aircraft. These new aircraft, pictured on this page, will be flown from the aircraft carrier HMAS MELBOURNE.

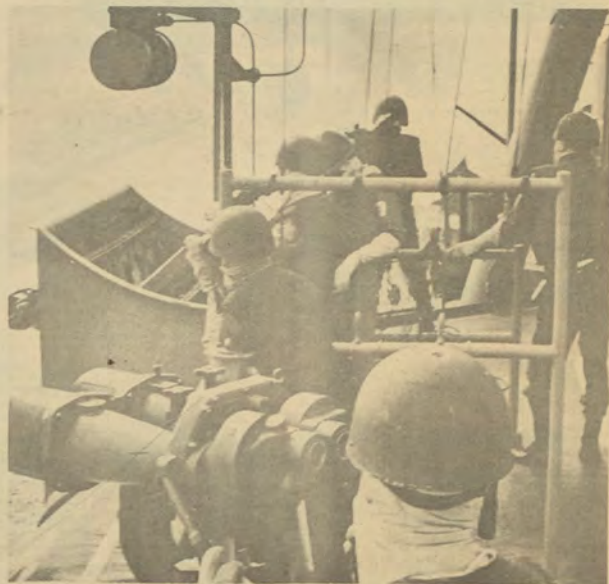




AUSTRALIA'S guided missile destroyer HMAS HOBART fires in anger.



Top — Crowded bridge of HMAS HOBART during action stations off the Vietnamese coast. Above — HMAS PERTH and HMAS HOBART in Subic Bay in the Philippines before PERTH joins the 7th Fleet and HOBART returns to Australia. Right — Tension of battle in the Gulf of Tonkin.

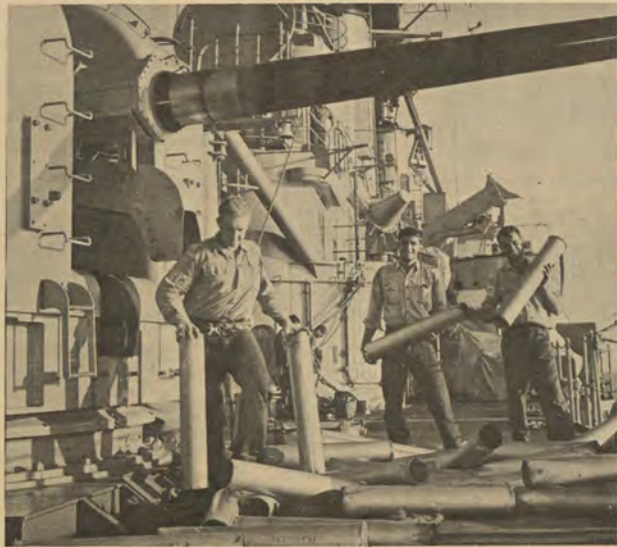


# R.A.N. In Vietnam

**T**WO Australian destroyers have been alternating in service with the United States' 7th Fleet in Vietnam. They are the guided missile destroyers HMAS HOBART and HMAS PERTH which have been employed on shore bombardment, escort duties and interdiction of coastal traffic. They have fired tens of thousands of shells from their five-inch guns, disrupting Viet Cong transport, ordnance and supply routes and traffic. The way in which these ships and their men have carried out their tasks has been highly praised by U.S. authorities.

The RAN is also represented in Vietnam by a Naval clearance diving team which is performing a valuable task for the allies, and in addition there are 46 RAN pilots, observers and supporting staff attached to the US Army helicopter unit who are flying, manning and maintaining Iroquois helicopters in support tasks. Other RAN helicopter pilots are attached to the RAAF's No. 9 Squadron.

Another valuable role is being performed by the troop transport HMAS SYDNEY which is being used to convey replacement troops and equipment to Vietnam.



Left — Cleaning up after an engagement off Vietnam. Right — A U.S. Skycrane lifts heavy equipment from SYDNEY.



# Shipbuilding



**NEW SHIPS** for the Navy. Top, left to right — Patrol boats under construction at Maryborough, Queensland; launching of new Type 12 HMAS SWAN; pre-fabricated bow being swung into position on HMAS TORRENS. Right — The aircraft carrier HMAS MELBOURNE under refit. She will operate new Skyhawk and Tracker aircraft.







The aircraft carrier HMAS MELBOURNE and the troop transport HMAS SYDNEY (foreground).



Guided missile destroyer HMAS PERTH. Sister ships HOBART and BRISBANE.



Daring-class destroyer HMAS VENDETTA. Sister ships VAMPIRE and DUCHESS.



Type 12 destroyer escort HMAS STUART. Sister ships DERWENT, PARRAMATTA and YARRA.



Destroyer tender HMAS STALWART.



Oberon-class submarine HMAS OXLEY. Sister ship HMAS OTWAY.



Training ship HMAS ANZAC. Battle-class destroyer.



Patrol boat P.90 H.M.A.S. ATTACK. One of 20 for the R.A.N.



Minesweeper HMAS TEAL. Sister ships IBIS, HAWK, GULL, CURLEW and SNIPE.



Fleet oiler H.M.A.S. SUPPLY.

## THE STRENGTH OF THE R.A.N.

To fulfil its requirements the Navy has an operational fleet capable of a wide variety of tasks. The fleet comprises:

- An anti-submarine aircraft carrier, HMAS Melbourne, flagship of the fleet, equipped with Wessex anti-submarine helicopters, Skyhawk fighter-bombers and Tracker anti-submarine aircraft.

- Three guided missile destroyers — HMAS Perth, Hobart and Brisbane, armed with two 5 in. gun mountings, Tartar sea-to-air and Ikara anti-submarine, guided weapon systems.

- Three Daring Class destroyers, HMAS Vampire, Vendetta and Duchess, armed with 4.5 in. gun mountings and anti-submarine mortars.

- Four destroyer escorts, HMAS Yarra, Parramatta, Stuart and Derwent, which have Ikara anti-submarine missile systems.

- One oiler, HMAS Supply; one destroyer tender, HMAS Stalwart; and the fast military transport, HMAS Sydney.

- Two training ships, HMAS Anzac and HMAS Queenborough, the survey vessels HMAS Moresby and Diamantina and several small vessels with various uses.

- Twenty patrol boats — five for the Papua-New Guinea coastal security force and the remainder for the R.A.N.

- Two Oberon Class submarines, HMAS Oxley and Otway, with two others of the same class to join the fleet by 1970.



Survey ship HMAS MORESBY.



Skyhawk fighter-bomber.



Tracker anti-submarine aircraft.



Wessex 31B anti-submarine helicopter.

## *Submarines*

Australia has two new Oberon-class submarines and two more are on order. HMAS OXLEY, pictured on this page, is playing a valuable role in Fleet anti-submarine training. HMAS OTWAY, the second Oberon, is a recent addition to the Fleet. Sister submarines OVENS and ONSLOW are under construction in Scotland. The Oberons are amongst the most advanced conventional submarines in the world. They have been specially designed for silent running and equipment includes sensitive underwater listening apparatus and a new electronic fire control system.



# Many Faces

There are many faces to the RAN and its members serve in a wide variety of ways.

Left — On watch in the Gulf of Tonkin. Below — An RAN helicopter pilot checks his U.S. gunship before taking off on a support mission in Vietnam. Far left — WRANS check the results of gunnery exercises. Left — The Navy band on parade at HMAS CERBERUS.



Duke of Edinburgh inspects Navy guard.  
Below — Member of the helicopter flight Vietnam stands guard.



**THERE ARE** many opportunities for members of the RAN to visit unusual and interesting parts of the world.

The tug-of-war (left) on the heaving deck of a destroyer is one way of relaxing, but there are many other ways as the pictures on this page show.



Sailors on a day off from HMAS TARANGAU, Manus Island, explore the island with a native lakatoi, propelled by a powerful outboard.



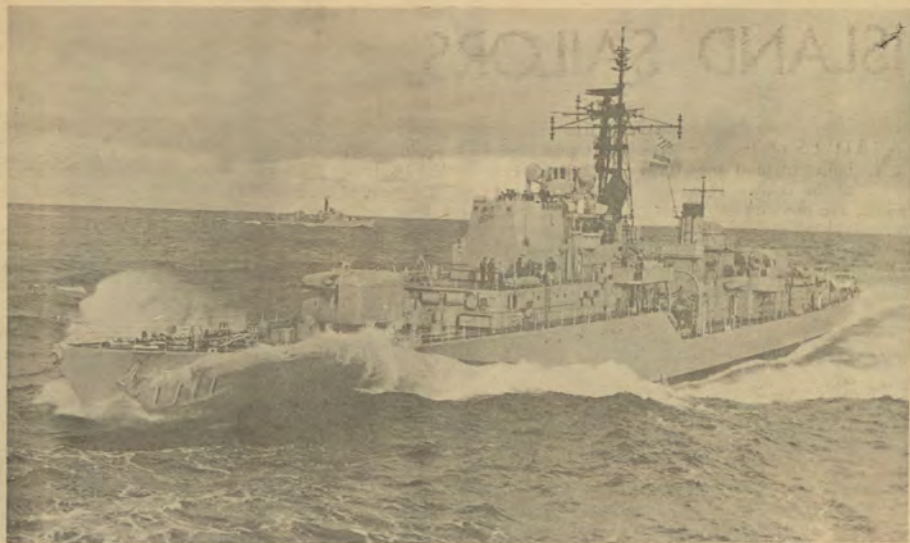
Sailors from a patrol boat discuss a price for a turtle shell with New Guinea natives.



South-East Asia provides a wealth of subjects for a sailor's camera.

The Daring-class destroyer HMAS VAMPIRE takes part in exercises off New Zealand with other RAN and RNZN ships. Exercises such as this with other navies enable the RAN to test the efficiency of training under combat conditions.

Below — Future officers, artisans and sailors. (From left) Naval apprentices at HMAS NIRIMBA; Junior recruits at HMAS LEEUWIN inspect a visiting ship; Cadet midshipman at passing out parade at HMAS CRESWELL.



# ISLAND SAILORS

**N**ATIVES of the Territory of Papua and New Guinea are being trained as sailors and officers in the PNG Division of the RAN. They will man the patrol boats, the first of which are already in service. At present the patrol boats have mixed ships' companies, but eventually those of the PNG Division will be entirely manned by PNG officers and sailors. The patrol boats, based at HMAS TARANGAU on Manus Island, are patrolling thousands of miles of coastline each month.



HMAS SAMARAI



A PNG sailor at the wheel of a patrol boat.

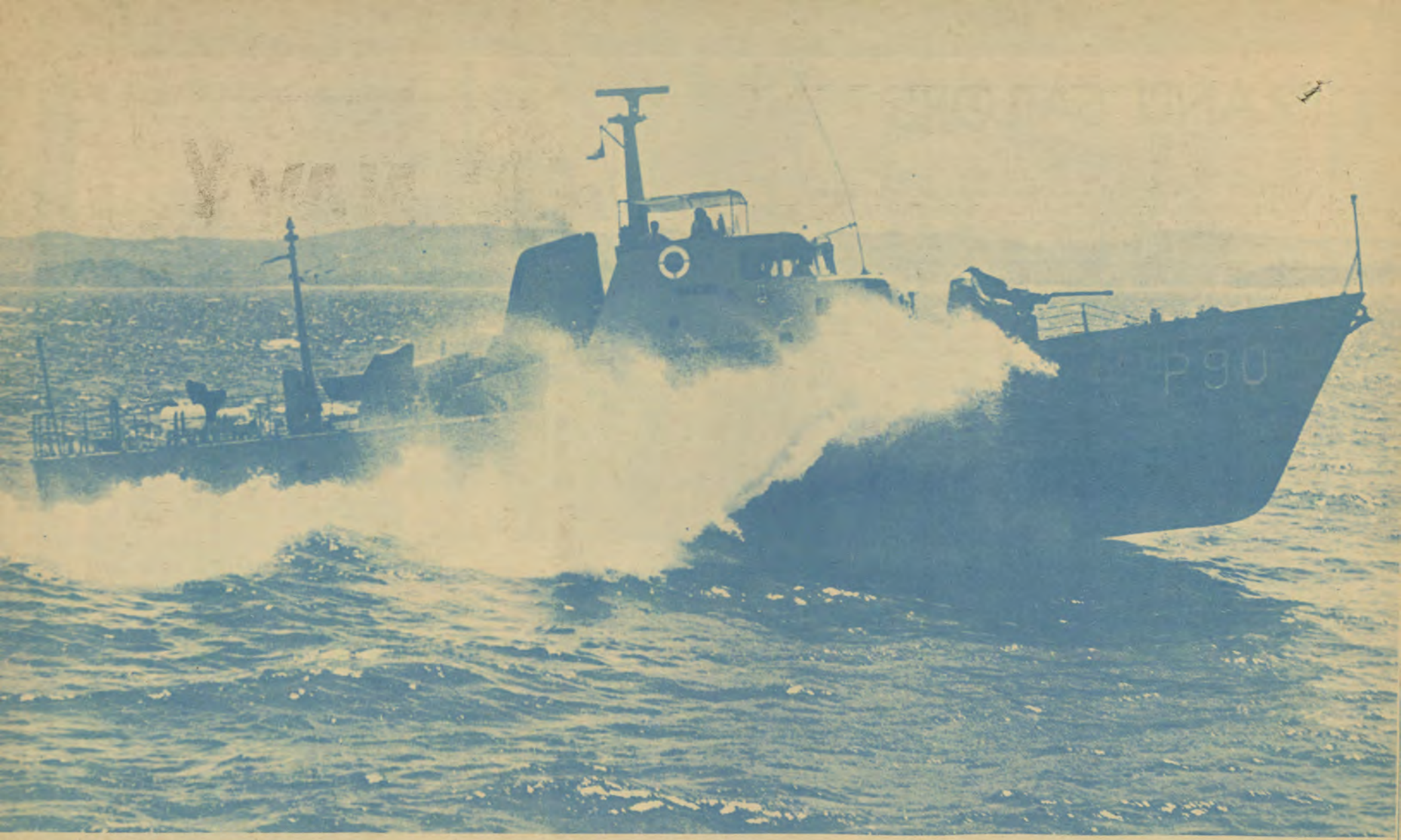


A determined gun crew on a patrol boat.



A future PNG officer under instruction. Below — Diving lessons for a PNG sailor.





**NAVAL CAREERS** — Information on Naval careers may be obtained from recruiting officers in all capital cities or from the Director of Naval Recruiting, Navy Office, Canberra, ACT, 2600.

Further general information on the Navy may be obtained from the Director of Public Relations, Navy Office, Canberra, ACT 2600.

*Printed web offset by Peter Isaacson Pty. Limited, 46-47 Porter Street, Prahran, Victoria, 3181, for The Department of Navy, Canberra.*