



R.E. SHADER FORMG

NAVY TODAY



The Royal Australian Navy Today

The Royal Australian Navy goes into the 1970s with a strength unequalled in peacetime. With the completion of a ship-building programme in 1970 begun in the sixties, the Australian Fleet will include over 50 ships, including an aircraft carrier, six destroyers, six destroyer escorts, four submarines, mine-sweepers, minehunters, patrol boats and various support ships, as well as aircraft of the Fleet Air Arm.

New ships on the drawing board include a combat support ship, which will replenish Fleet ships with a wide variety of stores, fuel and ammunition at sea; a new oceanographic ship and a small hydrographic ship.

In addition, the R.A.N. is undertaking a preliminary design study for a new class of light destroyer — a relatively small destroyer with a high top speed, long range and anti-aircraft, anti-submarine and surface capabilities.

Today there are over 17,000 officers and men in the Permanent Naval Forces. They serve in ships and shore establishments, both in Australia and overseas, including Vietnam, where the R.A.N. has one of its destroyers serving with the U.S. Seventh Fleet. A Navy helicopter flight and Navy clearance divers are also serving in Vietnam.

Left — Daring-class destroyer HMAS VAMPIRE.
Opposite page — HMAS VENDETTA (top) — River class destroyer HMAS PARRAMATTA (below), Ikara anti-submarine missile launched from the guided missile destroyer HMAS PERTH (right).



The Fleet Air Arm



Left — Skyhawk fighter-bomber launched from HMAS MELBOURNE.

Top — Preparing Skyhawk for launching.

Above — Tracker anti-submarine aircraft leaves on a patrol.



This series of pictures shows a Skyhawk landing on HMAS MELBOURNE.

Above — the approach and *Right* — the arrest.

Note how the trailing hook has picked up one of the arrestor wires on the deck. HMAS MELBOURNE carries Skyhawk fighter-bombers, Tracker anti-submarine aircraft and Wessex anti-submarine helicopters.



Above left — Crowded flight deck HMAS MELBOURNE.

Above right — Wessex helicopter takes off from MELBOURNE.

Left — Tracker ready for take-off.

Right — the R.A.N. carrier and flagship HMAS MELBOURNE on exercise in South-East Asian waters.



Left — Tying down Skyhawk on MELBOURNE'S flight deck.
Above — Skyhawk pilot.
Right — Flight deck activities.



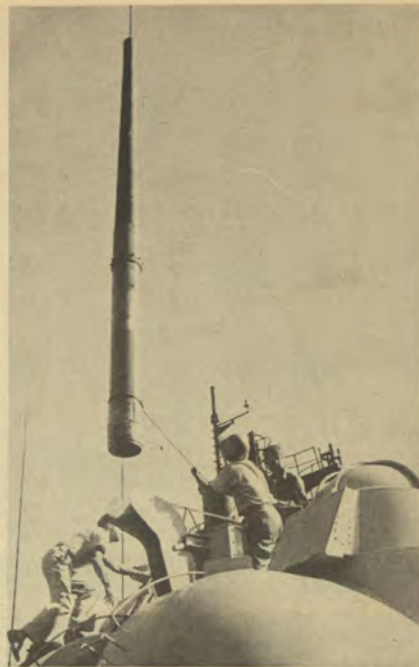
Ships and Aircraft of the R.A.N.

Modernisation of the Royal Australian Navy in recent years has given up-to-date ships and aircraft, some of which are shown on these pages. Top (left to right) — Wessex anti-submarine helicopter on patrol during exercises with allied ships in the South China Sea; the guided missile destroyer HMAS PERTH off Vietnam; Skyhawk approaching for landing at sea; Oberon-class submarine HMAS OVENS. Left — Tracker landing on HMAS MELBOURNE. Right — River-class destroyer HMAS STUART.



Navy in Vietnam

The Royal Australian Navy has maintained a destroyer in Vietnam since March, 1967. These ships, like HMAS PERTH, pictured here, served with the United States Seventh Fleet and have been used in a variety of roles, including gunfire support, interdiction of enemy coastal supply traffic and escort duties. Right—a new gun barrel is fitted to HMAS PERTH at Subic Bay. Below right—Enemy shells land close to HMAS HOBART. Both PERTH and HOBART received high U.S. awards for meritorious service in Vietnam.





Also serving in Vietnam are an Australian Navy helicopter flight and Navy clearance divers.

Above left — Iroquois helicopters, with R.A.N. crew, used to carry allied troops into combat areas.

Left — an R.A.N. sailor and a U.S. Army specialist combine skills in maintaining a helicopter engine.

Above right — R.A.N. clearance divers examine a suspect rocket earmarked for disposal.

Right — Clearance diver working under water. The Navy team is called upon for a variety of tasks, including under-water examination of ships to check whether they have been mined by saboteurs.





Men of the Navy

Officers and sailors, skilled in a wide variety of tasks, form the backbone of the Australian Navy. Their numbers, as new ships come into service, have climbed above 17,000. They include seamen, gunners, artisans, technicians, communicators and divers.

Above left — Drummer on parade.

Above — Helicopter pilot.

Left — Navy apprentice under training.

Right — A trick at the wheel.



Above, left to right — Australian sailor in Manila with Filipino friend; Helicopter crew in Vietnam discuss results of a sortie; Reporting to the bridge.

Right — Petty Officer in the troop transport HMAS SYDNEY competes with Army marksmen in target practice on way to Vietnam.

Far right — Happy in the Service!





Navy Ceremonial

Left — New Queen's Colours for the Royal Australian Navy. Below left — Members of the ship's company of HMAS HOBART admire U.S. Navy Unit Commendation presented to the ship for meritorious service in Vietnam. Below — similar award is presented to Captain of HMAS PERTH by Commander-in-Chief U.S. Pacific Fleet. The U.S. Navy Unit Commendation has been awarded only three times to other than U.S. ships. Opposite page — Patrol boat HMAS AWARE (top left), Mine hunter HMAS CURLEW (below left); Destroyer escort HMAS PARRAMATTA (right).





Further general information on the Royal Australian Navy may be obtained from the Director of Public Relations, Navy Office, Canberra, A.C.T., 2600.

Information on Naval careers may be obtained from Recruiting Officers in all capital cities, or from the Director of Naval Recruiting, Navy Office, Canberra, A.C.T., 2600.

