



# NAVY TODAY





## A Growing Navy

The Royal Australian Navy of the 1980s is beginning to take shape. Design work, planning studies and construction being undertaken now will result in the development of a new generation of ships and facilities to serve the Navy of the future.

This development is directed towards meeting the roles of the RAN which are:—

- to have a force capable of timely and sustained combat operations at sea;
- detection and destruction of enemy naval forces and sea commerce;
- establishing superiority in areas as necessary for naval operations, including protection of sea lines of communications;
- conducting naval offensive operations against enemy forces and installations;
- conducting naval reconnaissance and surveillance, anti-submarine warfare, shipping protection and hydrographic and oceanographic surveying;
- providing naval support for land operations;
- providing military sea transport for Australian Services; and
- providing seaward defence of ports and anchorages.

Among these new projects are the construction of two submarines, oceanographic and hydrographic ships, a fast combat support ship to carry fuel, stores and ammunition to other ships at sea, and the design of a new class of light destroyer.

These ships will join a fleet which already is the largest in the peacetime history of the RAN. Among its 55 ships in service are an aircraft carrier which carries modern aircraft of several types, guided missile destroyers, quiet and effective submarines, destroyer escorts specially designed and equipped for anti-submarine warfare, mine counter-measure vessels, patrol boats which operate constantly in northern Australian and Papua-New Guinea waters, support ships, training ships and specialised vessels for hydrographic and oceanographic research.

These ships and aircraft are described in detail in the following pages.

Name	No.	Builder	Laid Down	Launched	First Commissioned
MELBOURNE	21	Vickers-Armstrong	15/4/43	28/2/45	27/10/55

Barrow-in-Furness

Displacement 20,000 tons

Length 701.5 ft

Beam 80.2 ft

Armament 12 (4 twin, 4 single)  
40/60 mm Bofors

Machinery Parsons single reduction geared turbines, 4 Admiralty 3-drum type boilers

Speed Over 20 knots

Ship's Company 1,335 (includes 347 Carrier Air Group personnel)

Aircraft Douglas Skyhawk A4G jet fighter-bombers

Grumman Tracker S2E ASW aircraft

Westland Wessex ASW helicopters

Westland Wessex SAR helicopters



## Aircraft Carrier

The light aircraft carrier HMAS MELBOURNE is the Royal Australian Navy's flagship.

With her Skyhawk, Tracker and Wessex aircraft, MELBOURNE combines aerial defence of the Fleet with her anti-submarine role.

She also has a strike capacity which has been strengthened with the purchase of additional Skyhawk aircraft in 1971.

When carrying extra Skyhawk aircraft the carrier will control a significant strike force which can be directed against either maritime or shore targets and can give ground support to the Army.

MELBOURNE embarked her present aircraft in 1969 after an extended refit which included modifications to aid flying and handling of the new generation aircraft.

MELBOURNE was laid down in 1943 as HMS MAJESTIC, at the same time as HMS TERRIBLE (now HMAS SYDNEY) and was launched in 1945.

With the end of World War II, however, work on MAJESTIC ceased pending a decision on future requirements. Arrangements were made for her to be taken over by the RAN and renamed HMAS MELBOURNE.

Construction resumed in 1949 with modifications to be made including increasing the size of the flight deck lifts to handle larger aircraft coming into service and in 1952 work started on fitting an angled flight deck, steam catapult and mirror landing sight.

She was commissioned into the RAN on October 27, 1955 and after working up in British waters with her Sea Venom and Gannet aircraft she sailed for Australia, arriving in Sydney on May 10, 1956.



Name	No.	Builder	Laid Down	Launched	First Commissioned
PERTH	38	Defoe Shipbuilding Co Bay City Mich	21/9/62	26/9/63	17/7/65
HOBART	39	Defoe Shipbuilding Co Bay City Mich	26/10/62	9/1/64	18/12/65
BRISBANE	41	Defoe Shipbuilding Co Bay City Mich	15/2/65	5/5/66	16/12/67

Displacement 4,500 tons

Length 437 ft

Beam 47 ft

Armament Two 5-in automatic rapid fire guns, Tartar anti-aircraft guided missile system. Two Ikara anti-submarine missile systems. Triple mounted 2 sets anti-submarine homing torpedoes

Machinery Two GE geared steam turbines driving two shafts

Speed Over 30 knots

Ship's Company 333



## Guided Missile Destroyers

The RAN's First Destroyer Squadron comprises the three guided missile destroyers HMA Ships PERTH, HOBART and BRISBANE.

The three US-built ships are similar to the US Navy's DDG-15 class and their design is particularly versatile.

Their main task is air defence of the Fleet, but they also have formidable anti-submarine and surface gunnery capabilities.

The principal aircraft defence weapon is the Tartar guided missile system which is mounted towards the stern of these ships.

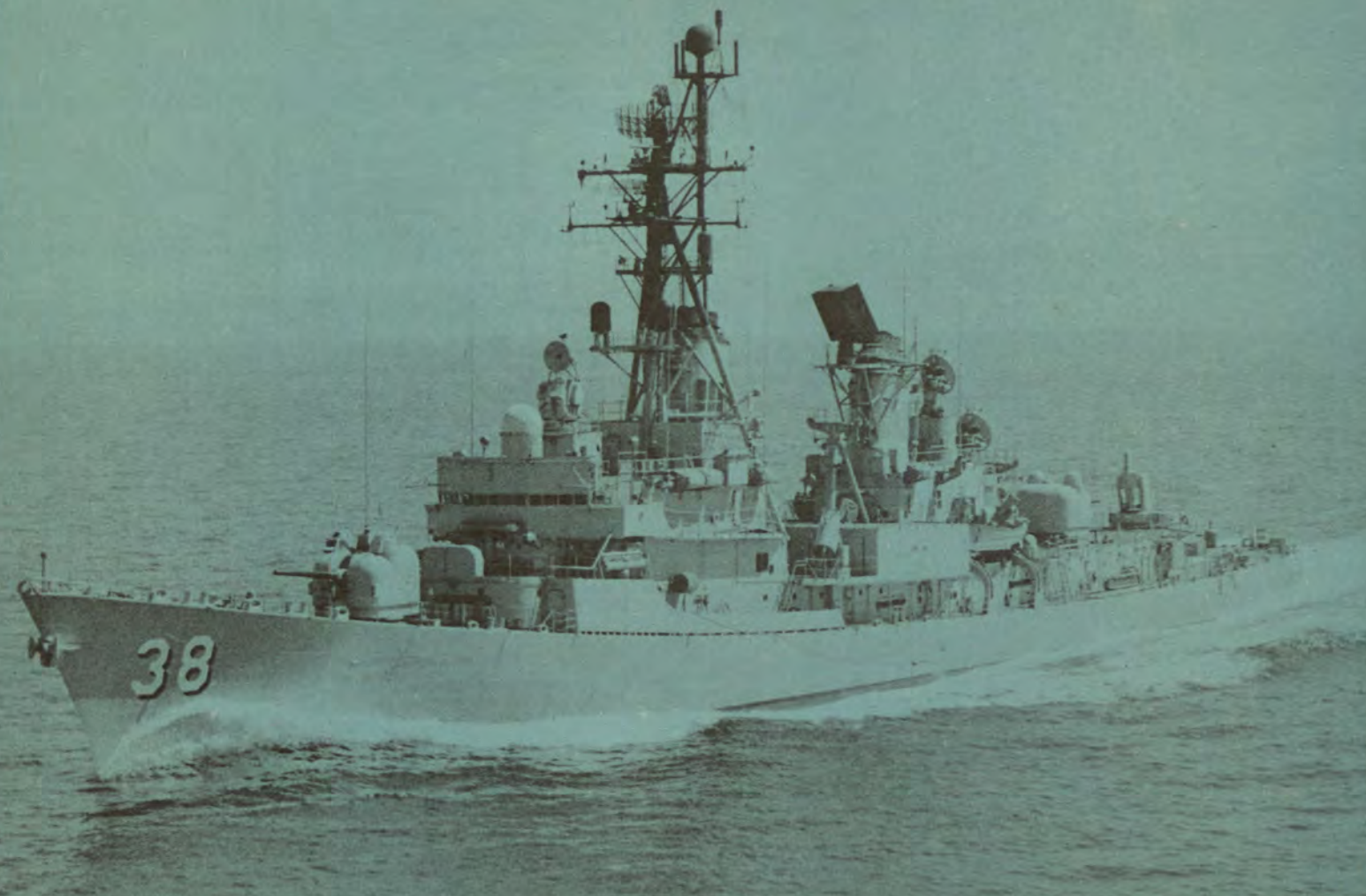
The DDG's are also fitted with two Ikara missile launchers. This long-range anti-submarine system is Australian-designed and developed. In action, the missile is automatically guided to the vicinity of the hostile submarine where a torpedo is released by parachute to home on the target.

The ships are fitted with modern long-range sonar, radar, communications and electronic equipment to provide the command with comprehensive information in the operations room.

Living spaces are air conditioned.

All three ships have seen action in Vietnam where they have served with distinction with ships of the US Navy's 7th Fleet.

They share the names of former RAN cruisers.



Name	No.	Builder	Laid Down	Launched	First Commissioned
VENDETTA	08	HMA Naval Dockyard Williamstown	4/7/49	3/5/54	26/11/58
VAMPIRE	11	Cockatoo Island Dockyard Sydney	1/7/52	27/10/56	23/6/59
DUCHESS	154	John I. Thornycroft & Co Southhampton	2/7/48	9/4/51	8/5/64 (RAN) 23/10/52 (RN)

Displacement 3,600 tons

Length 390 ft

Beam 43 ft

Armament Six 4.5 in dual purpose guns in twin turrets, two forward, one aft  
Six 40/60 mm Bofors guns.  
Triple-barrel anti-submarine mortar

Machinery Parsons double reduction geared turbine, driving two shafts

Speed Over 30 knots

Ship's Company 321



## Destroyers

The RAN's Second Destroyer Squadron is made up of the Daring-Class destroyers HMA Ships VENDETTA, VAMPIRE and DUCHESS.

These all-purpose ships have main gunnery armament comparable to a light cruiser, giving them formidable surface gunnery as well as anti-aircraft capabilities.

Anti-submarine detection equipment and weapons increase their versatility.

Though based on the same design, VAMPIRE and VENDETTA were built in Australia while DUCHESS is British-built.

They are all-welded construction and light alloys have been used extensively to reduce weight.

Modernisation of the two Australian ships which began in 1970 includes updating of weapons systems and other changes which will improve their performance. Changes will include a new enclosed bridge.

The three twin-gun turrets are being modernised by improving the drive and other systems.

Digital systems replace analogue fire control systems and include new radars.

New air-warning radar, new navigation/surface search radar and better sonar are other improvements.

In 1969, VENDETTA became the first all Australian-built warship to see service in Vietnam.

She also has the distinction, as a result, of being the first Daring-Class destroyer to be engaged in the role for which they were primarily built—naval gunfire support.



Name	No.	Builder	Laid Down	Launched	First Commissioned
YARRA	45	Williamstown Dockyard	9/4/57	30/9/58	27/7/61
PARRAMATTA	46	Cockatoo Island Dockyard	3/1/57	31/1/59	4/7/61
STUART	48	Cockatoo Island Dockyard	20/3/59	8/4/61	28/6/63
DERWENT	49	Williamstown Dockyard	16/6/58	17/4/61	30/4/64
SWAN	50	Williamstown Dockyard	18/8/65	16/12/67	20/1/70
TORRENS	53	Cockatoo Island Dockyard	18/8/65	28/9/68	19/1/71
	Displacement	2,700 tons			
	Length	370 ft			
	Beam	41 ft			
	Armament	Two 4.5 in guns in twin turret controlled by digital fire control radar and computer Seacat anti-aircraft missile system Ikara anti-submarine missile system Triple-barrel anti-submarine mortar			
	Machinery	Geared steam turbines 30,000 shaft horsepower			
	Speed	Over 30 knots			
	Ship's Company	250			



## Destroyer Escorts

With HMAS TORRENS now in the Fleet, the RAN has six Australian-built destroyer escorts forming the Third Australian Destroyer Squadron.

TORRENS is identical to her sister ship HMAS SWAN, but these two escorts have had included many changes on the four earlier River-Class ships—DERWENT, STUART, YARRA and PARRAMATTA.

They are all armed with 4.5 inch guns which are used with digital fire control radar and computer.

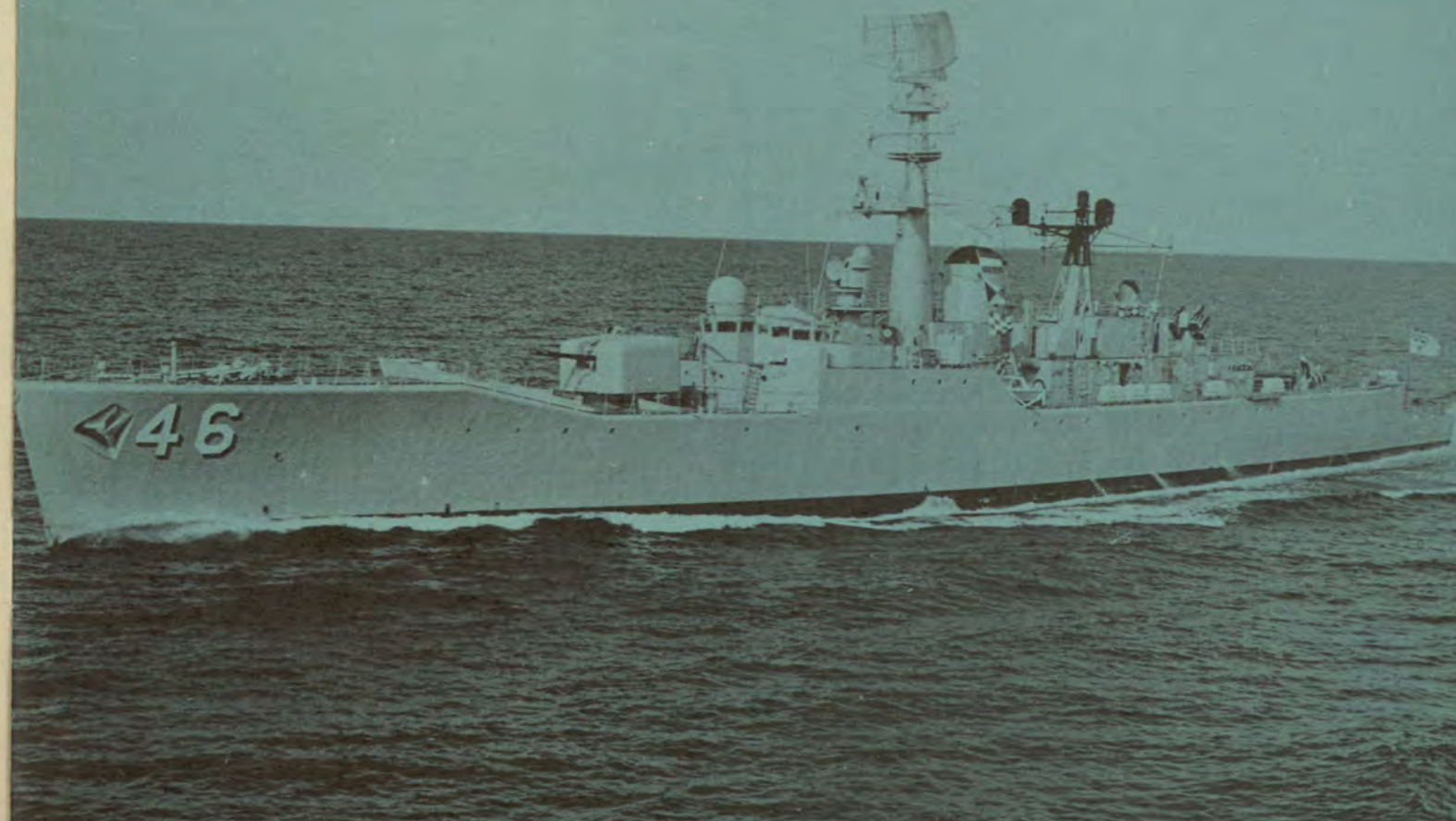
The guns can be used for shore bombardment or can provide fire power against air or surface targets.

Close-range air and surface defence is provided by the Seacat missile system which is controlled by a separate radar and computer.

The Seacat missile system was developed in Britain and has been adopted by a number of navies.

A submarine threat can be met by using either the Australian-designed and built Ikara anti-submarine missile system, or the triple barrelled mortars carried on all the escorts.

Ikara is a rocket-propelled guided missile which carries a homing torpedo towards its submarine target. The torpedo is lowered into the sea by a parachute and is then acoustically homed on the submarine target.



Name	No.	Builder	Laid Down	Launched	First Commissioned
OXLEY	57	Scotts' Shipbuilding, Greenock	2/7/64	24/9/65	27/3/67
OTWAY	59	Scotts' Shipbuilding, Greenock	29/6/65	29/11/66	22/4/68
ONSLow	60	Scott's Shipbuilding, Greenock	4/12/67	3/12/68	22/12/69
OVENS	70	Scotts' Shipbuilding, Greenock	17/6/66	4/12/67	15/4/69

Displacement 2,030 tons

Length 295 ft

Beam 26½ ft

Armament Six bow and two stern anti-surface ship and anti-submarine torpedo tubes

Machinery Two English Electric main propulsion motors, with two Admiralty standard range diesel generators

Speed Submerged speed, over 15 knots

Ship's Company 62

## Submarines

Four Oberon-Class submarines form the First Australian Submarine Squadron. Two more are on order.

Their value as an offensive weapons system is enhanced by their ability to operate in enemy-dominated waters for extended periods, without logistic support and without air cover.

The Oberons are long-range diesel-electric submarines which can move against surface ships or other submarines.

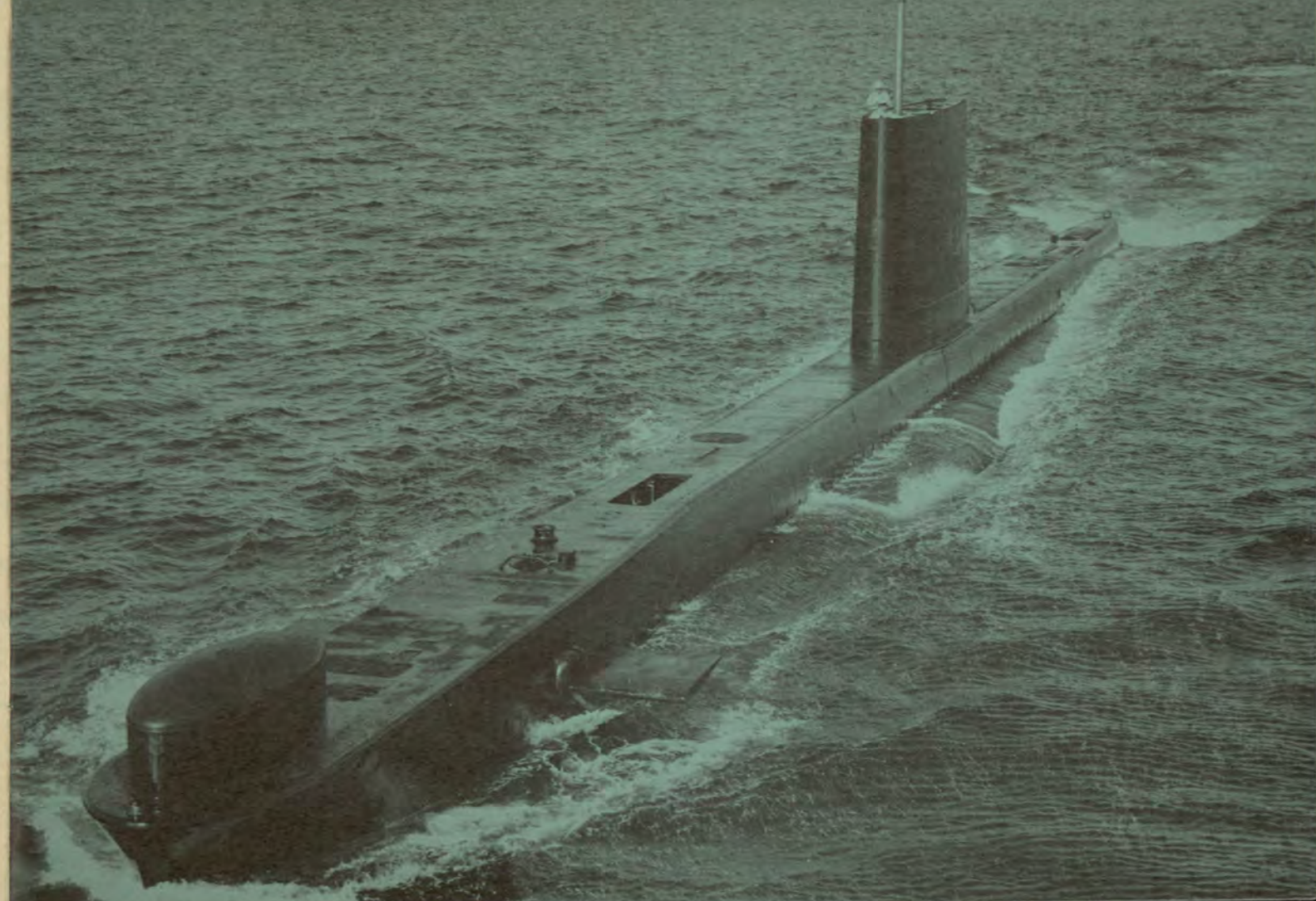
They are one of the most effective conventional types of submarines available today, and their quietness of operation makes them particularly difficult for an enemy to detect.

They are designed for silent running, and underwater equipment includes sensitive listening apparatus and an electronic fire control system.

All are fitted with a 'snort' system which enables batteries to be recharged while the submarine remains submerged.

They can dive to more than 400 ft and have a submerged speed of over 15 knots.

The four craft are based at HMAS PLATYPUS, Neutral Bay, Sydney.



Name	No.	Builder	Launched	First Commissioned
SNIPE	1102	Thornycroft, UK	5/1/53	11/9/62
CURLEW	1121	Montrose, UK	6/10/53	21/8/62
HAWK	1139	I. W. Richards, UK	17/9/55	18/7/62
TEAL	1152	Philip, UK	28/2/55	30/8/62
IBIS	1183	Montrose, UK	18/11/55	7/9/62
GULL	1185	Doig, UK	1/7/54	19/7/62

Displacement	480 tons
Length	153 ft
Beam	28 ft
Armament	Two 40/60 mm Bofors gun (one on minehunters)
Machinery	Napier diesel engines developing 3,000 hp
Speed	Over 15 knots
Ship's Company	34 (minesweeper) 38 (minehunter)



## Mine Warfare Ships

The First Australian Mine Countermeasures Squadron is made up of six Ton-Class mine countermeasure ships.

Of British design and construction, the ships were modified in the UK before joining the Australian Fleet in 1962.

Originally all six ships were fitted as minesweepers, but HMA Ships CURLEW and SNIPE have been converted to minehunters.

The other four are fitted for mine sweeping.

They carry devices to explode acoustic and magnetic as well as contact mines. They can also detect and destroy other underwater obstructions which would be hazardous to shipping.

The wooden-hulled minesweepers are themselves non-magnetic and are sufficiently silent not to actuate acoustic mines.

Mine hunting is the latest advance in mine countermeasures and the re-equipped CURLEW and SNIPE are significant additions to the Australian Fleet.

Mine hunting is complementary to mine sweeping and is carried out in a different way.

Using a high definition sonar set the minehunter locates mines ahead of the ship.

When a mine is located, clearance divers go into the water to identify it and decide whether to render it safe and remove it or to blow it up with an explosive charge where it lies.





Name	No.	Builder	Laid Down	Launched	First Commissioned
ACUTE	81	Evans Deakin Ltd	Apr. 67	26/8/67	26/4/68
ADROIT	82	Evans Deakin Ltd	Aug. 67	3/2/68	17/8/68
ADVANCE	83	Walkers Ltd	Mar. 67	16/8/67	24/1/68
AITAPE	84	Walkers Ltd	Nov. 66	6/7/67	13/11/67
SAMARAI	85	Evans Deakin Ltd	Dec. 66	14/7/67	1/3/68
ARCHER	86	Walkers Ltd	Jul. 67	2/12/67	15/5/68
ARDENT	87	Evans Deakin Ltd	Oct. 67	27/4/68	26/10/68
ARROW	88	Walkers Ltd	Sep. 67	17/2/68	3/7/68
ASSAIL	89	Evans Deakin Ltd	Aug. 67	18/11/67	12/7/68
ATTACK	90	Evans Deakin Ltd	Sep. 66	8/4/67	17/11/67
AWARE	91	Evans Deakin Ltd	Jun. 67	7/10/67	21/6/68
LADAVA	92	Walkers Ltd	Feb. 68	11/5/68	21/10/68
LAE	93	Walkers Ltd	May 67	5/10/67	3/4/68
MADANG	94	Evans Deakin Ltd	Mar. 68	10/8/68	28/11/68
BANDOLIER	95	Walkers Ltd	Jul. 68	2/10/68	14/12/68
BARBETTE	97	Walkers Ltd	Nov. 67	10/4/68	16/8/68
BARRICADE	98	Evans Deakin Ltd	Dec. 67	29/6/68	26/10/68
BOMBARD	99	Walkers Ltd	Apr. 68	6/7/68	5/11/68
BUCCANEER	100	Evans Deakin Ltd	Jun. 68	14/9/68	11/1/69
BAYONET	101	Walkers Ltd	Oct. 68	6/11/68	22/2/69

Displacement 146 tons

Length 107 ft

Beam 20 ft

Armament 40/60 mm Bofors gun, machine gun and a variety of light arms

Machinery Two 16-cylinder diesels, producing more than 3,000 hp

Speed Over 20 knots

Ship's Company 19



## Patrol Boats

Twenty patrol boats have been built in Australian shipyards for patrol and survey work in waters around Australia and Papua-New Guinea.

They are units of the First Australian Patrol Boat Squadron.

These all-weather, ocean-going ships have a variety of tasks, including the patrol of fishing grounds close to the coastline.

They also assist RAN survey ships in sounding work.

The 107-ft patrol boats are also used to train Australian Naval Reserve officers and sailors while Papuan and New Guinean officers and sailors are being trained to assume full responsibility for operating the P-NG patrol boat squadron.

The speed and versatility of the patrol boats have made them useful for assisting disabled craft, for use as sea-air rescue boats and for transporting patients from remote shallow ports.

Major excursions have been made deep into Papua-New Guinea river systems.

Included in the ships' equipment is high definition navigation radar, high and ultra-high frequency radio transmitters and receivers, gyro and magnetic compasses and echo sounder.

They are fully air conditioned. All were built in Queensland shipyards, with the first being commissioned in November, 1967.



Name	No.	Builder	Laid		First Com-
			Down	Launched	
SYDNEY	214	HM Dockyard, Devonport	19/4/43	30/9/44	16/12/48
	Displacement	17,233 tons			
	Length	698 ft			
	Beam	80 ft			
	Armament	Four 40/60 mm Bofors guns			
	Machinery	Parsons single reduction geared turbines			
	Speed	Over 20 knots			
	Ship's Company	607			



## Troop Transport

HMAS SYDNEY, which first saw service in the Royal Australian Navy as a light aircraft carrier, was converted in 1961-62 to a fast troop transport carrier.

It is also the senior ship of the First Australian Training Squadron.

SYDNEY was recommissioned in her present transport role on March 7, 1962.

She is capable of transporting a large body of men and their equipment anywhere in the world.

Late in May, 1964, SYDNEY transported a complete load of Army and RAAF units and equipment to Malaysia.

She has been continuously employed in transporting Australian Forces to South Vietnam and in 1971 visited the US to pick up new aircraft for the Fleet Air Arm.

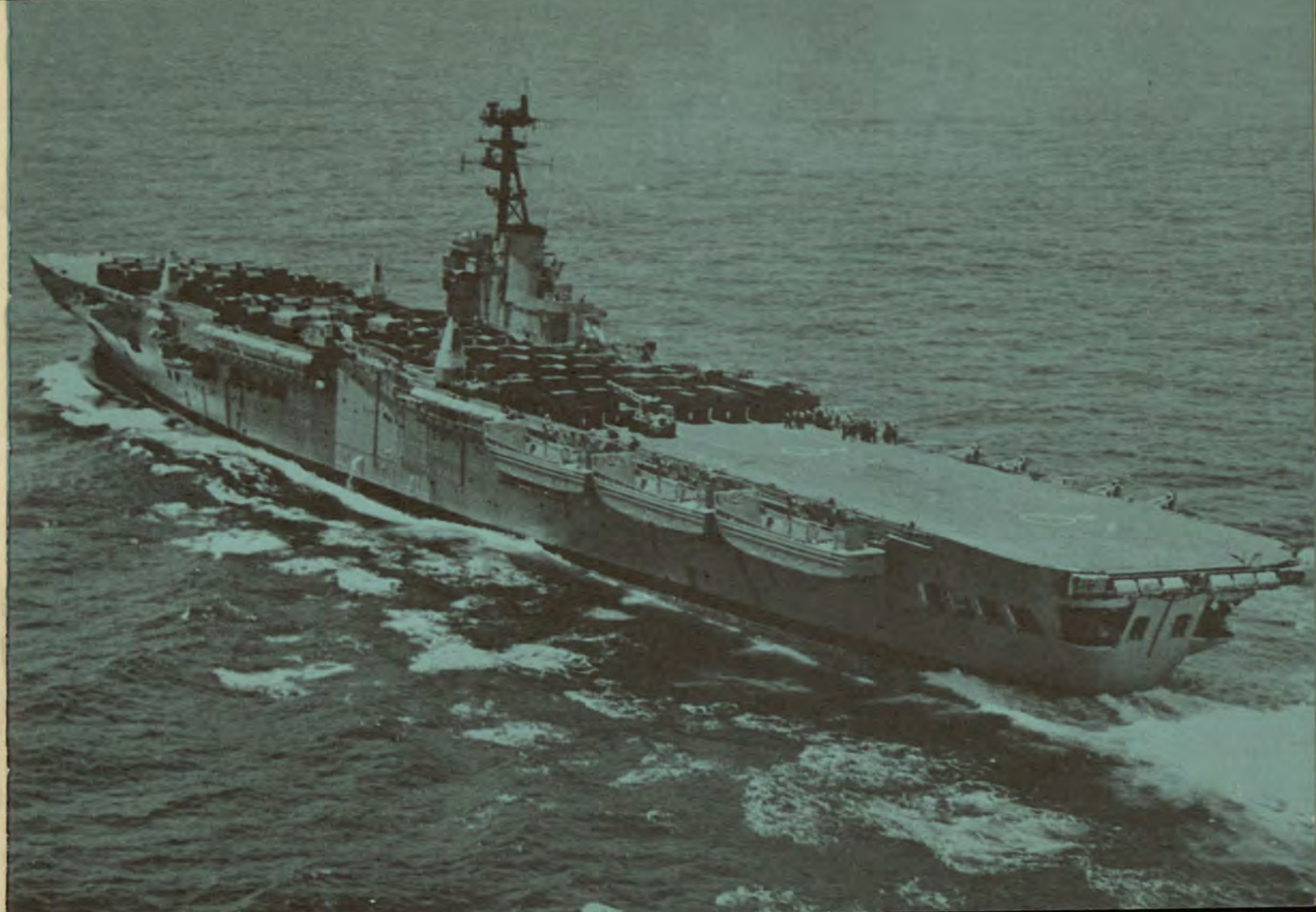
SYDNEY was laid down in 1943 as HMS TERRIBLE.

By the end of the war she was not urgently needed and was laid up until bought for the RAN as Australia's first aircraft carrier.

She reached Sydney on May 28, 1949, but returned the following year to bring back the 21st Carrier Air Group. The aircraft borne comprised Sea Furies, then the fastest piston-engined fighter in the world, and all-purpose Fairey Fireflies.

In 1951-52 and 1953-54, SYDNEY served with distinction in Korean waters where she mounted aerial strikes against tanks, trains, bridges, supply depots and troop concentrations.

SYDNEY finally landed her aircraft on May 1, 1955, and began her role as a training ship.



Name	No.	Builder	Laid Down	Launched	First Commissioned
QUEENBOROUGH	57	Swan Hunter and W.R. Wallsend	6/11/40	16/1/42	10/12/42
ANZAC	59	Williamstown Dockyard	23/9/46	20/8/48	22/3/51

#### QUEENBOROUGH

#### ANZAC

Displacement	2,020 tons	3,450 tons
Length	358 ft	379 ft
Beam	35.7 ft	41 ft
Armament	Twin 40/60 mm Bofors gun, two anti-submarine mortars	One 4.5 in gun
Machinery	Parsons geared turbines 40,000 shp, 2 shafts	Parsons geared turbines 50,000 shp, 2 shafts
Speed	Over 30 knots	Over 30 knots
Ship's Company	237	270



## Training Ships

Much of the sea training for RAN sailors is gained through experience aboard the troop carrier HMAS SYDNEY, and the training destroyers QUEENBOROUGH and ANZAC. The three ships form the First Australian Training Squadron.

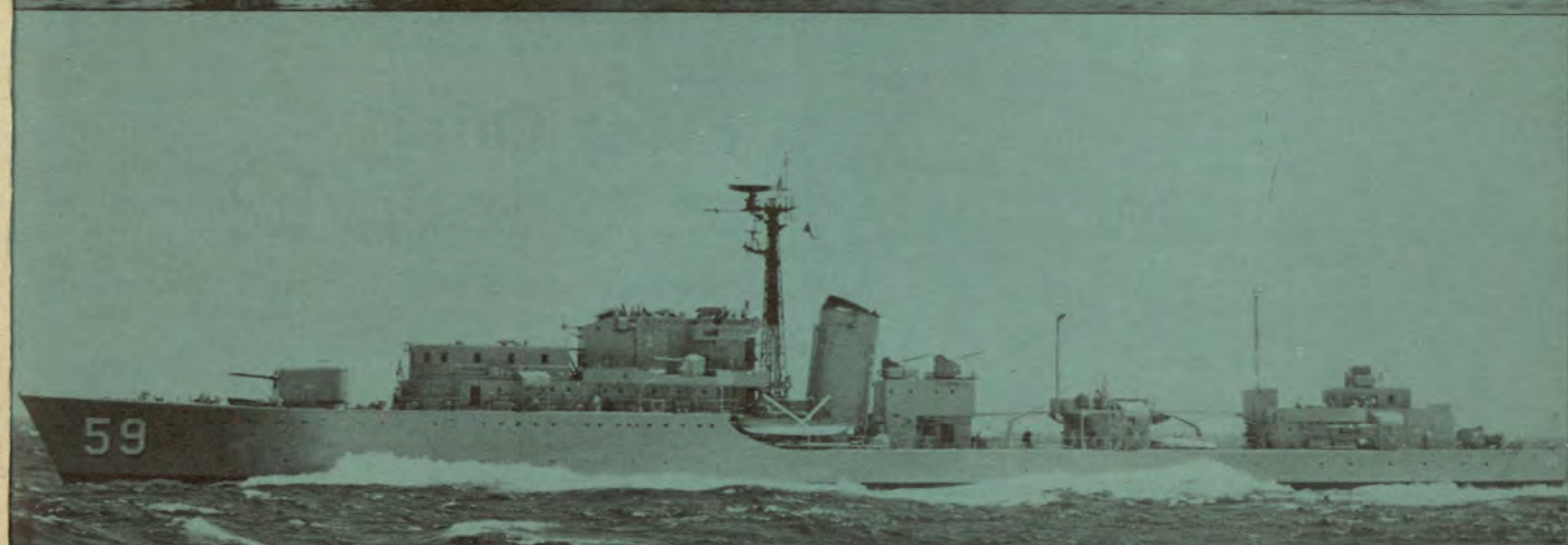
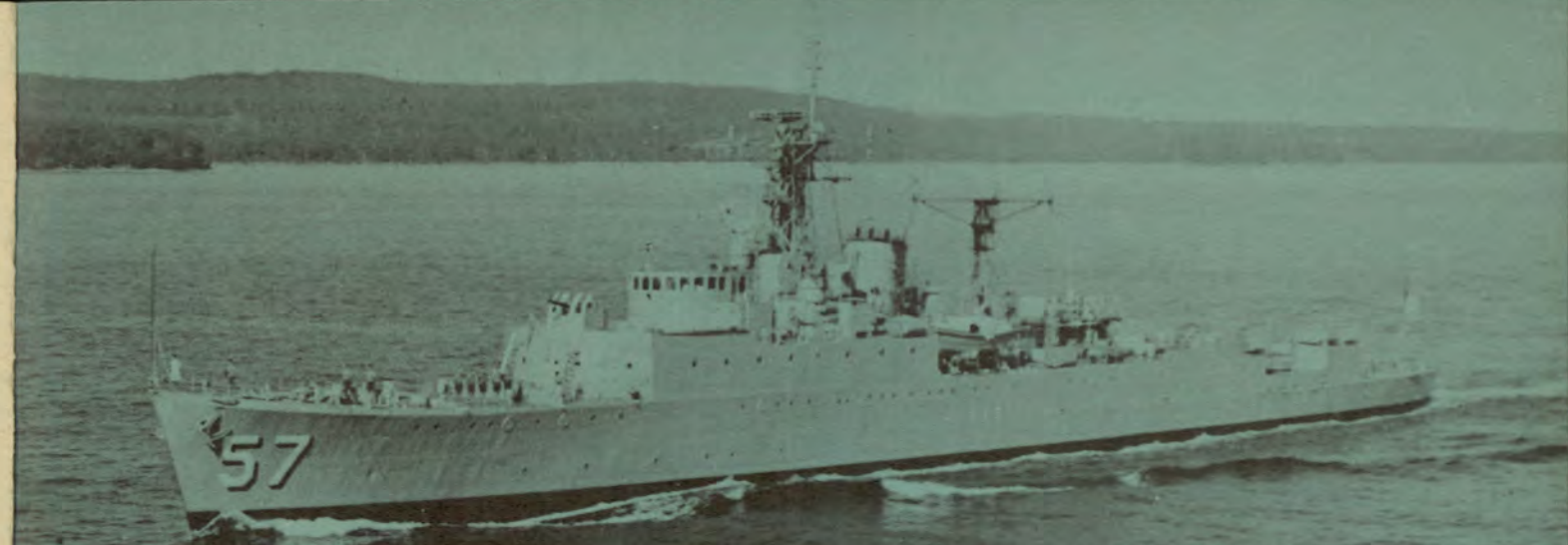
QUEENBOROUGH was a Royal Navy ship until transferred to the RAN in 1950. She was converted to a fast anti-submarine frigate and saw service in South-East Asia and off the Australian Coast.

She was taken out of service and placed in the Reserve Fleet in 1963, but recommissioned into the RAN in 1966 as a training ship.

With the other training ships, QUEENBOROUGH provides most of the basic sea time for recruits and midshipmen during their initial training period.

The destroyer ANZAC is a veteran of the Korean War, and since 1960 has been a Fleet training ship.

Originally she had three twin 4.5 inch gun mountings, but one of the forward turrets was removed in 1966 and replaced by a classroom for training.



Name	No.	Builder	Laid Down	Launched	First Commissioned
STALWART	215	Cockatoo Island Dockyard	23/6/64	7/10/66	9/2/68
SUPPLY	195	Harland and Wolff Belfast	5/8/52	1/9/55	7/9/62

	STALWART	SUPPLY
Displacement	10,500 tons	26,000 tons
Length	515 ft	583 ft
Beam	67 ft	71 ft
Armament	Two 40/60 mm Bofors guns twin mountings. Provision for Seacat close-range missiles	Two twin, two single mountings, 40/60 mm Bofors guns
Machinery	Two six-cylinder diesel engines developing 14,400 bhp	Double reduction geared turbines developing 15,000 shaft hp
Speed	Over 20 knots	Over 16 knots
Ship's Company	396	205



## Destroyer Tender

The destroyer tender HMAS STALWART is a floating workshop with the job of maintaining and repairing destroyers between major dockyard refits. Three quarters of the ship's company of 396 are engaged in repairing and maintaining other ships.

STALWART can handle several destroyers alongside at the same time and can operate from forward bases.

She has extensive and well-equipped engineering, electrical, electronic, weapons, shipwright and other workshops manned by officers and sailors expert in a variety of trades.

She is Australian-designed and built.

## Fleet Oiler

HMAS SUPPLY has the important task of refuelling fleet units to give ships greater range and mobility.

She supplies furnace fuel, aviation gasoline, diesolene and water to other ships while they are underway.

A typical operation sees a destroyer steam alongside SUPPLY at 15 knots. With only about 100 ft between ships, lines are shot across, hoses are run across and connected, and pumping begins. A destroyer can be refuelled in this way in less than half an hour.



Name	No.	Builder	Laid Down	Launched	First Commissioned
MORESBY	73	Newcastle State Dockyard	1/6/62	7/9/63	6/3/64
PALUMA	337	NSW State Dockyard		5/2/46	18/3/57
DIAMANTINA	266	Walkers Ltd, Maryborough	12/4/43	6/4/44	27/4/45
KIMBLA	314	Walkers Ltd, Maryborough	4/11/53	23/3/55	27/3/56

MORESBY		PALUMA	
Displacement	2,300 tons	Displacement	336 tons
Length	314 ft	Length	120 ft
Beam	42 ft	Beam	24 ft
Armament	Two 40/60 mm Bofors guns	Machinery	Diesel main engines
Machinery	Diesel electric main engines	Speed	9 knots
Speed	Over 18 knots	Ship's Company	29
Ship's Company	146		

DIAMANTINA		KIMBLA	
Displacement	2,200 tons	Displacement	750 tons
Length	301 ft	Length	179 ft
Beam	36.7 ft	Beam	32 ft
Armament	One 40/60 mm Bofors gun	Machinery	Triple expansion steam engine
Machinery	Triple expansion; 2 Admiralty 3-drum boilers	Speed	Over 10 knots
Speed	Over 19 knots	Ship's Company	40
Ship's Company	121		



## Survey Ships

Hydrographic surveys and oceanographic research are carried out by HMA Ships MORESBY, PALUMA, DIAMANTINA and KIMBLA, aided at times by other Fleet ships.

The RAN Hydrographic Service is the charting authority for Australian waters, which cover about one-eighth of the earth's surface.

The recent increase in the exploitation of Australia's natural resources has seen the development of a number of new ports, such as Gove, Weipa, Port Latta, Spring Bay, Hay Point and Dampier and has heralded the era of the bulk carrier. This has necessitated the surveying of new shipping routes and harbour approaches and the resurvey of existing routes, notably the Great Barrier Reef and Torres Strait, to cope with the deep draught ships.

The surveying task is a formidable one and presents a challenge to the two RAN survey ships MORESBY and PALUMA.

MORESBY is one of the most modern survey ships in the world. She operates her own helicopter and has advanced equipment including electronic aids for surveying in all conditions.

A new hydrographic ship to replace PALUMA is being built.

DIAMANTINA and KIMBLA undertake oceanographic research both for military and scientific purposes, including programmes for the CSIRO, universities and museums.

DIAMANTINA, a converted frigate, will be replaced by a modern hydrographic ship, now under construction, which will be similar in design to HMAS MORESBY, but slightly larger to incorporate requirements for modern oceanographic research.



## Future Ships

Increased demands and newly-developed techniques are providing the Navy with a need for new ships.

Several different types are on the drawing boards and they will become an important part of the Fleet for the 1980s.

The biggest project is the designing and construction of a series of new destroyers designed specifically for Australian conditions.

They will have a long cruising range and high top speed and will be armed with a variety of weapons.

To provide support away from bases, the Navy is also planning a combat support ship to carry fuel, stores and ammunition to warships so they can operate for long periods and distances away from base facilities.

The support ship will carry several types of liquid fuel, as well as stores such as clothing and food.

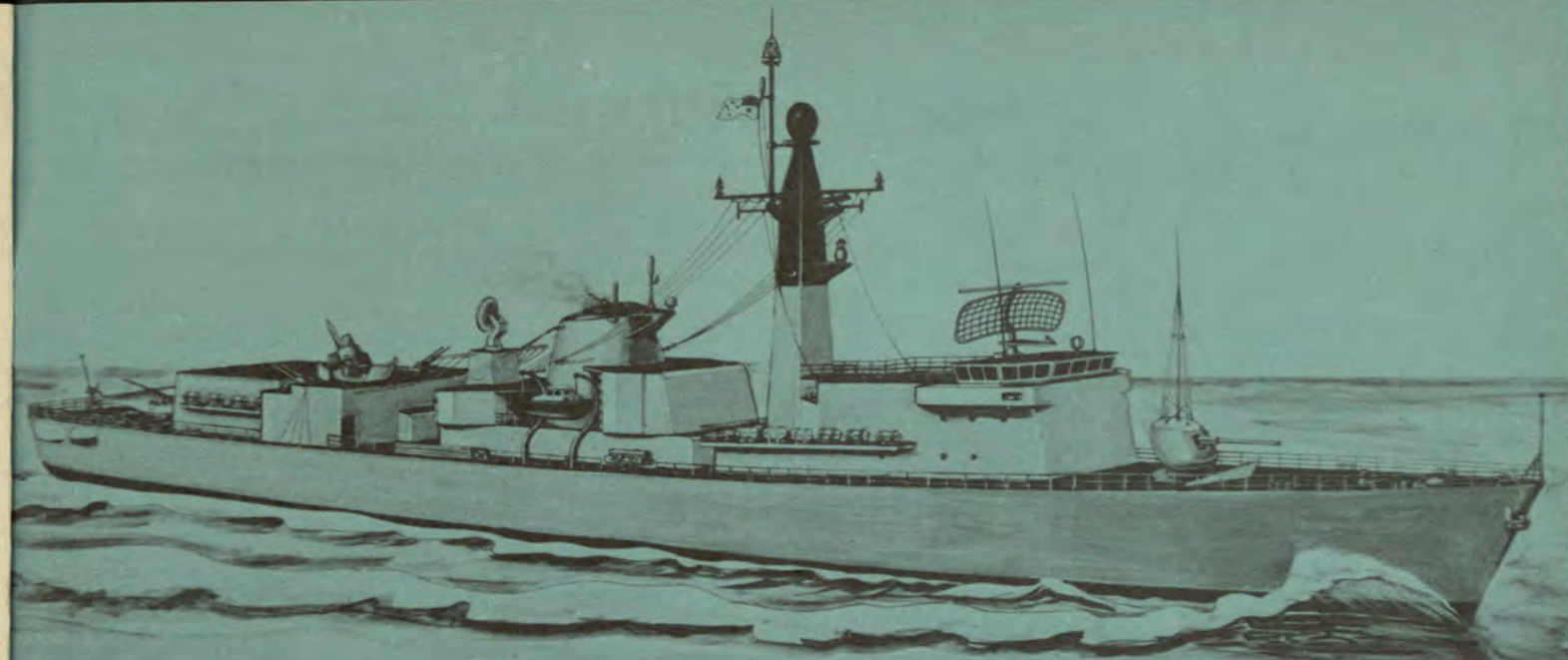
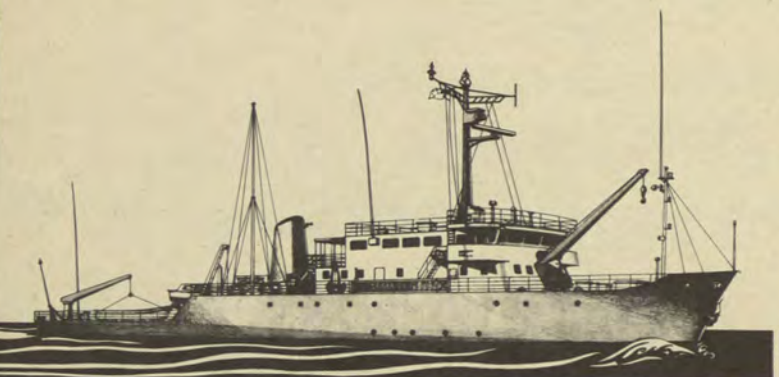
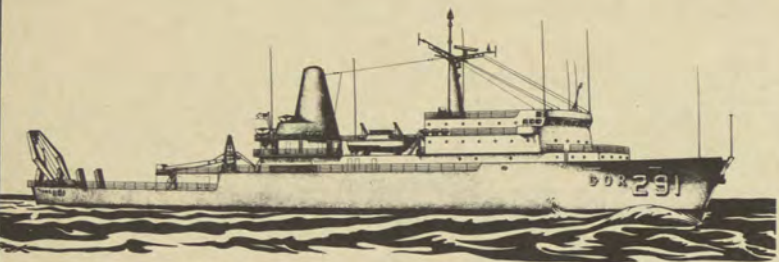
The ship will displace about 20,000 tons, will be about 540 ft long and will be built in Australia at an estimated cost of \$45 million.

Approval has been given for a new oceanographic ship to replace HMAS DIAMANTINA. It will be named HMAS COOK and is expected to go into service about 1975.

A replacement is being built at Williamstown Naval Dockyard for the hydrographic ship HMAS PALUMA.

Named HMAS FLINDERS, it will have about a 50 per cent increase in output over PALUMA mainly because of higher speed, better endurance and better sea-keeping qualities. It will displace about 700 tons.

The RAN currently has four Oberon Class submarines, and another two will be bought from British ship builders. They are expected to enter service in the mid 1970s.



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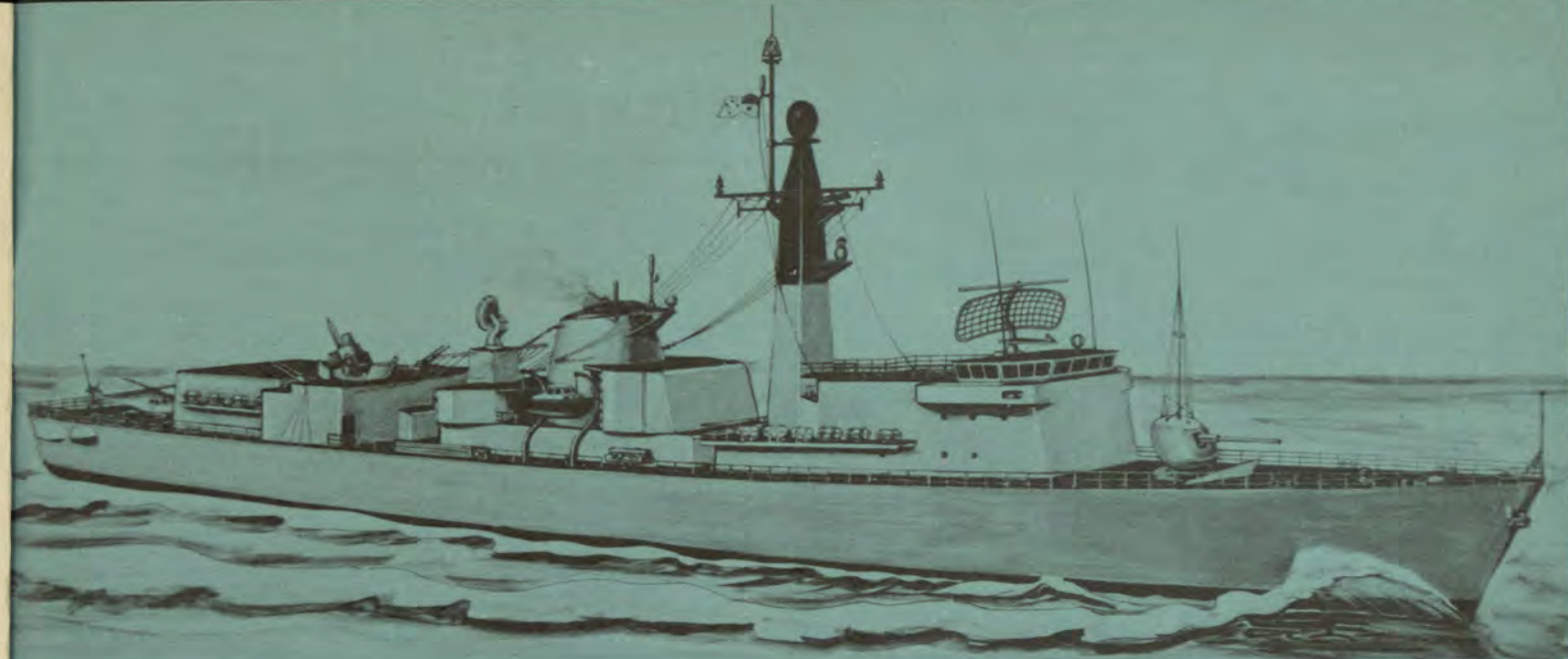
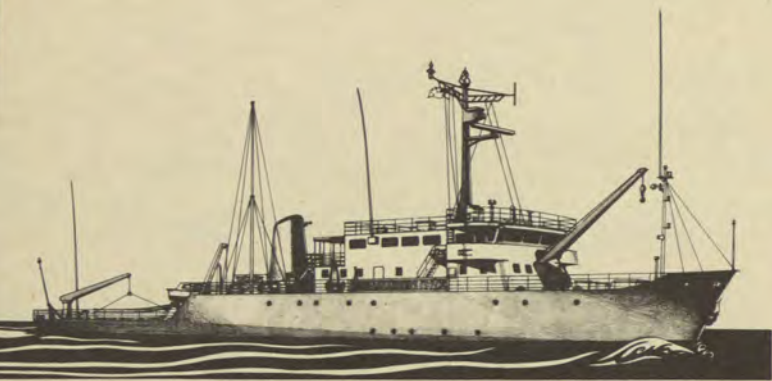
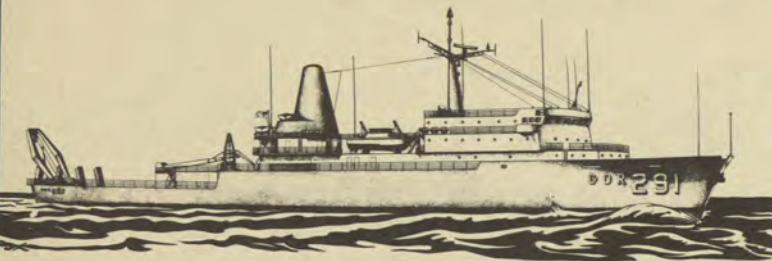
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Approval has been given for a new oceanographic ship to replace HMAS DIAMANTINA. It will be named HMAS COOK and is expected to go into service about 1975.

A replacement is being built at Williamstown Naval Dockyard for the hydrographic ship HMAS PALUMA.

Named HMAS FLINDERS, it will have about a 50 per cent increase in output over PALUMA mainly because of higher speed, better endurance and better sea-keeping qualities. It will displace about 700 tons.

The RAN currently has four Oberon Class submarines, and another two will be bought from British ship builders. They are expected to enter service in the mid 1970s.





## Aircraft

Fleet Air Arm effectiveness has been increased with the addition of 10 new Skyhawk jet fighter-bombers.

These transonic aircraft have joined 10 already in service, which has significantly added to the versatility of the aircraft carrier HMAS MELBOURNE.

The Douglas Skyhawk is a relatively small aircraft (weight empty 9,800 lb) but it is capable of carrying an extensive and varied war load (maximum all-up weight, 24,500 lb) over considerable distance. (Picture—top left).

Its armaments include combinations of air-to-air missiles, a variety of 250, 500 and 1,000 lb bombs, a 20 mm cannon and rocket projectiles.

Embarked on MELBOURNE with the Skyhawks are anti-submarine Tracker aircraft and Wessex helicopters.

Grumman Trackers are all-weather twin-engine aircraft fitted with electronic devices for navigation and detecting submarines. (Picture—below left).

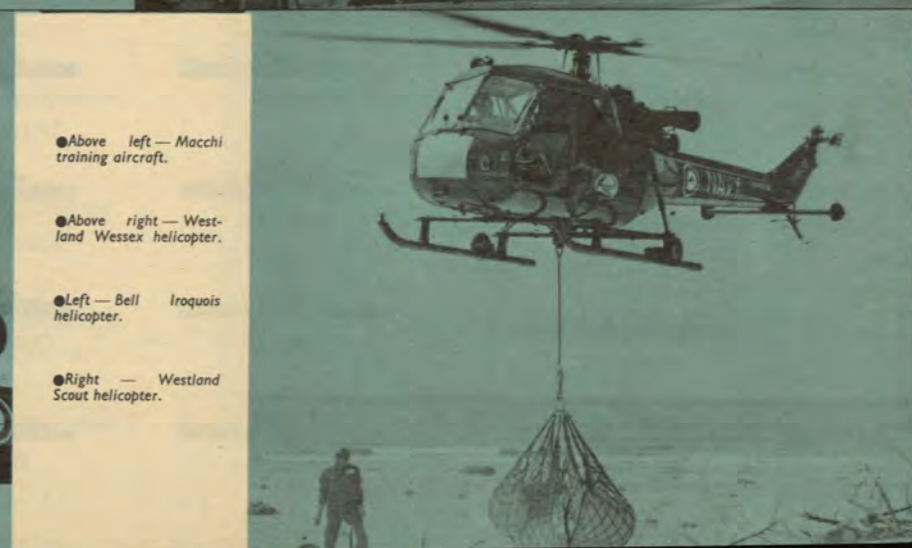
They can remain on patrol for up to 10 hours, and each carries a crew of two pilots, observer and aircrewman.

Armaments include homing torpedoes or depth charges in bomb bay, underwing attachments for torpedoes, depth charges or rockets, and sonobuoys and marine markers in rear of engine nacelles.

The Westland Wessex are employed to screen the Fleet, searching with their sonar equipment for submarines.

They are also used in a search and rescue role.

They carry a crew of two pilots, observer and aircrewman.



● Above left — Macchi training aircraft.

● Above right — Westland Wessex helicopter.

● Left — Bell Iroquois helicopter.

● Right — Westland Scout helicopter.



# SHIPS OF THE ROYAL



MELBOURNE



SYDNEY



PERTH



YARRA



HAWK



QUEENBOROUGH



HOBART



PARRAMATTA



IBIS



ANZAC



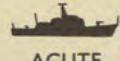
BRISBANE



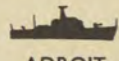
SWAN



TEAL



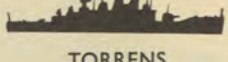
ACUTE



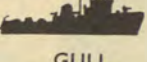
ADROIT



VAMPIRE



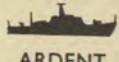
TORRENS



GULL



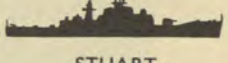
ARCHER



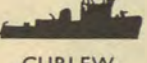
ARDENT



VENDETTA



STUART



CURLEW



ATTACK



AWARE



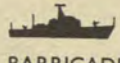
DUCHESS



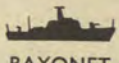
DERWENT



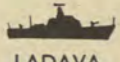
SNIPE



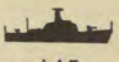
BARRICADE



BAYONET



LADAVA



LAE

# AUSTRALIAN NAVY



STALWART



MORESBY



SUPPLY



OXLEY



BASS



BANKS



PALUMA



OTWAY



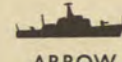
ADVANCE



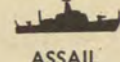
AITAPE



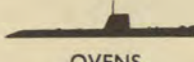
ONSWLOW



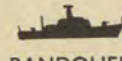
ARROW



ASSAIL



OVENS



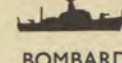
BANDOLIER



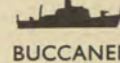
BARBETTE



KIMBLA



BOMBARD



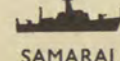
BUCCANEER



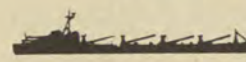
DIAMANTINA



MADANG



SAMARAI



JEPARIT

AIRCRAFT CARRIER	HMAS MELBOURNE	Flagship
DESTROYERS:		
Guided Missile	HMA Ships BRISBANE PERTH HOBART	
Daring Class	HMA Ships VENDETTA VAMPIRE DUCHESS	
Battle Class	HMAS ANZAC Training Ship	
River Class	HMA Ships YARRA PARRAMATTA	
Escorts	STUART DERWENT SWAN TORRENS	
Queenborough Class	HMAS QUEENBOROUGH Training Ship.	
SUBMARINES:		
Oberon Class	HMA Ships OXLEY OTWAY ONSLOW OVENS	
SUPPORT SHIPS:		
Fast Troop Transport	HMAS SYDNEY	
Oiler	HMAS SUPPLY	
Destroyer Tender	HMAS STALWART	
Survey Ship	HMAS MORESBY	
Coastal Survey	HMAS PALUMA	
Oceanographic Research	HMAS DIAMANTINA HMAS KIMBLA	
Mine Sweepers	HMA Ships GULL HAWK IBIS TEAL	
Mine Hunters	HMA Ships CURLEW SNIPE	
Patrol Boats	HMA Ships ACUTE ASSAIL BUCCANEER ADROIT ATTACK BOMBARD ADVANCE AWARE LADAVA AITAPE BANDOLIER LAE ARCHER BARBETTE MADANG ARDENT BARRICADE SAMARAI ARROW BAYONET	
Auxiliaries:	HMA Ships BASS BANKS JEPARIT	

*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.*

