
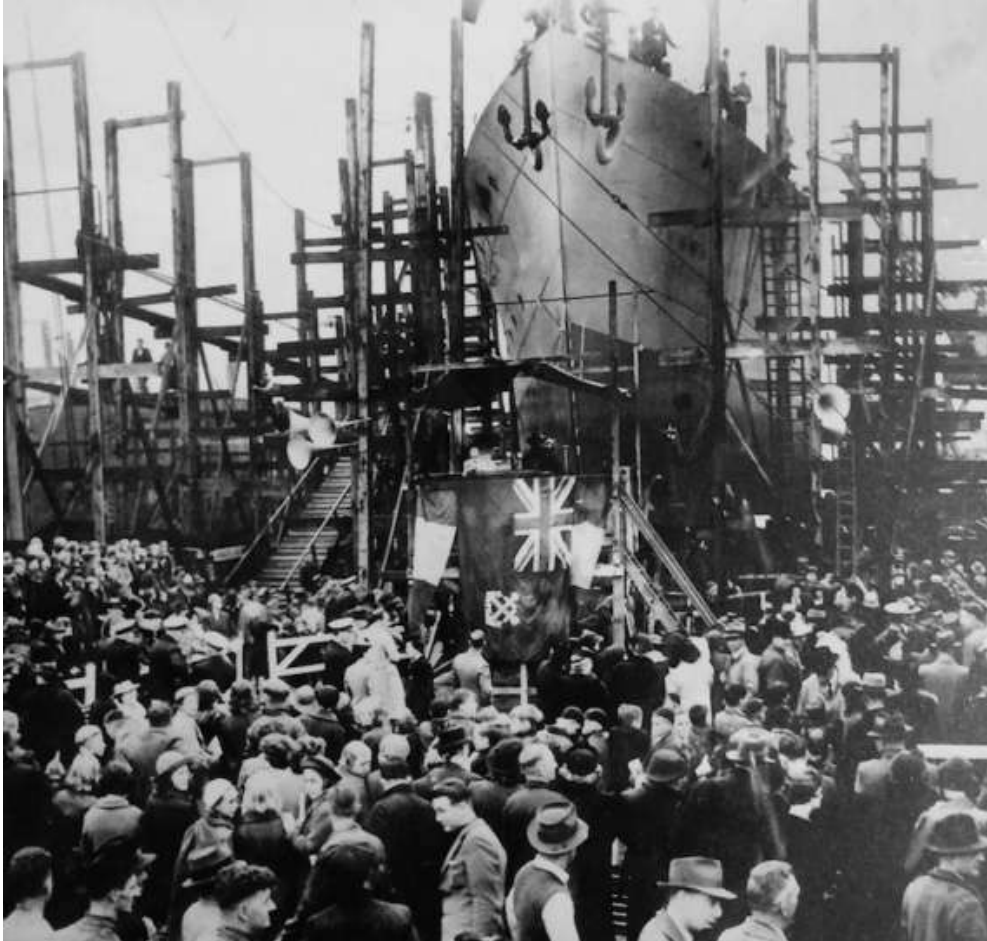


HMAS Geelong – J201



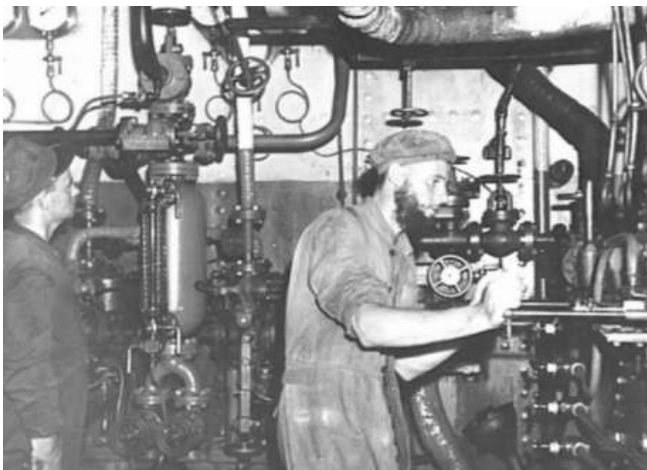
<p>Namesake: City of Geelong Vic</p> <p>Builder: HMA Naval</p> <p>Dockyard</p> <p>Laid down: 16 October 1940</p> <p>Launched: 22 April 1941</p> <p>Commissioned: 16 January 1942</p> <p>Motto: "Strive To Succeed"</p> <p>Battle honours</p> <p>Pacific 1942-44</p> <p>New Guinea 1944</p> <p>Fate:</p> <p>On 18 October 1944, Geelong collided with the American tanker York and sank north of Langemak, New Guinea. No lives were lost, with the survivors picked up by York and transported to Langemak</p>		<p>Displacement: 650 tons (standard) 1,025 tons (full war load)</p> <p>Length: 186 ft (57 m)</p> <p>Beam: 31 ft (9.4 m)</p> <p>Draught: 8.5 ft (2.6 m)</p> <p>Propulsion: triple expansion engine</p> <p>Speed: 2 shafts, 1,750 hp 15 knots (28 km/h; 17 mph) at 1,750 hp</p> <p>Complement: 85</p> <p>Armament: 1 × 4-inch gun 3 × 20 mm Oerlikons Machine guns Depth charges chutes and throwers</p>
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HMAS *Geelong* was laid down at Melbourne Harbour Trust, Williamstown, Victoria on 16 October 1940. She was launched on 22 April 1941 by Lady Dugan, wife of the Governor of Victoria, and was the first RAN warship to carry the name of the port city located on Corio Bay and the Barwon River, in the state of Victoria. Geelong is 75km south west of the state capital, Melbourne, and is the second largest Victorian city.



Launching of HMAS Geelong

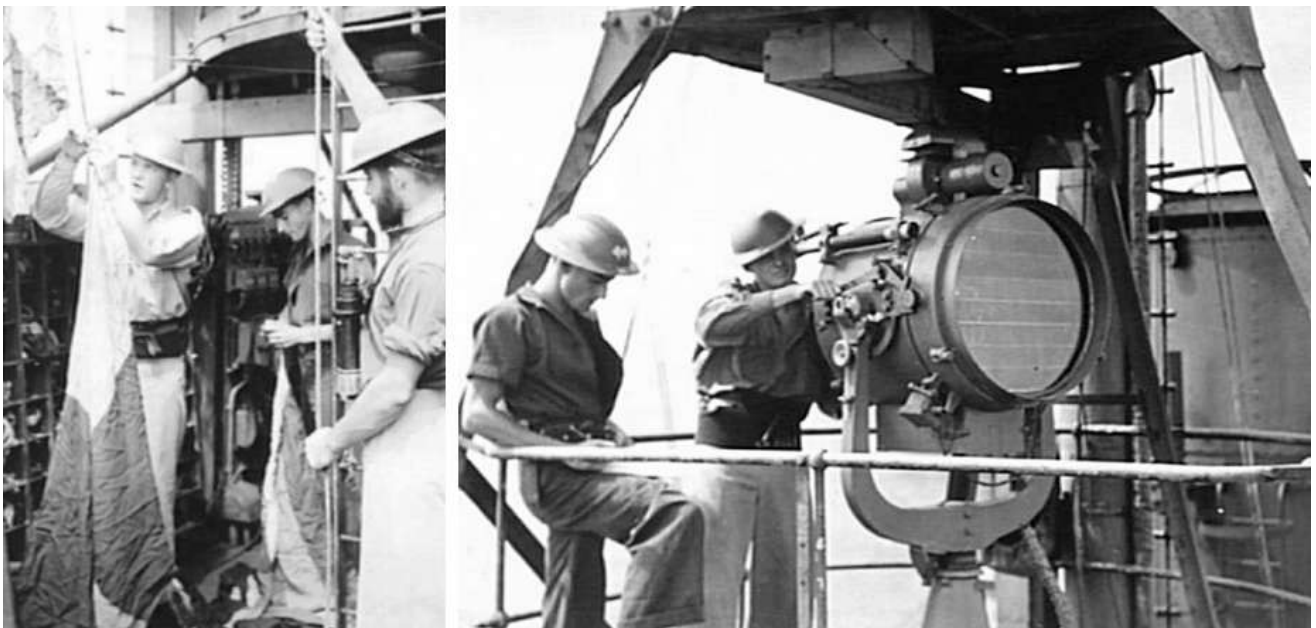
HMAS *Geelong* commissioned at Melbourne on 16 January 1942 under the command of Lieutenant Colin George Hill, MBE, RANR(S).



Left: Stokers working in the boiler room aboard Geelong (AWM 075745). Right: Engine room artificers also worked in machinery spaces, maintaining and repairing vital equipment. (AWM 075743)



Left: Cooks in the galley of Geelong preparing a meal (AWM 075736). Right: Ratings working in the naval store aboard Geelong (AWM 075738).



Left: Signalmen closed up on Geelong's flag deck. (AWM 075723). Right: Morse code, sent by directional flashing light, was routinely used to pass signals between ships. Here Geelong's signalmen can be seen receiving a signal while manning the ship's 20-inch searchlight (AWM 075724).



Left: Crew members loading a depth charge thrower onboard Geelong (AWM 075719). Right: Geelong's fire control party during a damage control drill. (AWM 075726).

After commissioning *Geelong* proceeded to her namesake city the following day for a one day visit, after which she commenced her trials and working up exercises.

Operational war service began with a brief period of minesweeping and anti-submarine duty on the Australian east coast. On 8 March 1942 *Geelong* departed from Brisbane for New Caledonia where she served on anti-submarine duties in the Noumea area until May 1942. In June 1942 she began a period of convoy escort duty between Sydney and Queensland ports which lasted until January 1944, when she proceeded to Adelaide for a refit which lasted until March 1944.

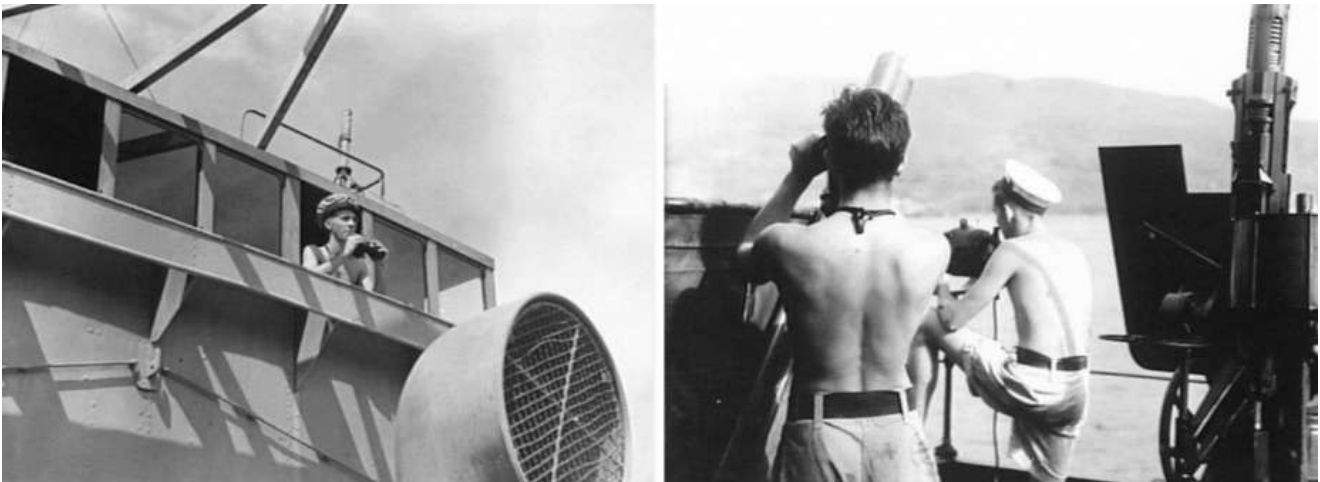


Left: Able Seaman BK Barrow, operating the ASDIC (submarine detection equipment) aboard Geelong (AWM 075741). Right: An engine room artificer operating a small lathe aboard Geelong. (AWM 075744)



Left: Geelong's gun crew loading the 4-inch gun during a drill. (AWM 075716). Right: The gun crew firing the 4-inch Mark XIX gun. The weapon in this image is sited on a Mark XXII mounting. (AWM 075717)

Following a further brief period of service in Australian waters, *Geelong* proceeded to the New Guinea theatre of operations, arriving at Milne Bay on 17 April 1944. The next six months were spent on convoy escort duties in the South West Pacific Area, mainly in New Guinea and New Britain waters, and as an anti-submarine patrol vessel in the Solomon Sea.



Left: Sub Lieutenant R Frewin, RAN, on the bridge of Geelong as the vessel proceeds along the coast of New Guinea, circa 1944. (AWM 075746). Right: A signalman in Geelong using an aldis lamp to signal the port authority as they prepare to enter Hombolt Bay, New Guinea, circa 1944. (AWM 075754)



Geelong PO'S getting their pay 1944



Left: Officers in the wardroom of Geelong (AWM 075773). Right: Crew members enjoying a yarn on the stern of Geelong. (AWM 075761)



Geelong Crew 1944



One of the last images taken of HMAS Geelong before she was lost. (AWM 075763)

On 18 October 1944 *Geelong* sank following a collision with the United States tanker *York* (10,488 tons) in position 6°4'S, 147°45'E, north of Langemak, New Guinea. There were no casualties. The survivors were picked up by *York* and landed at Langemak, from where they were taken to Milne Bay by aircraft and her sister ship HMAS *Ararat*.

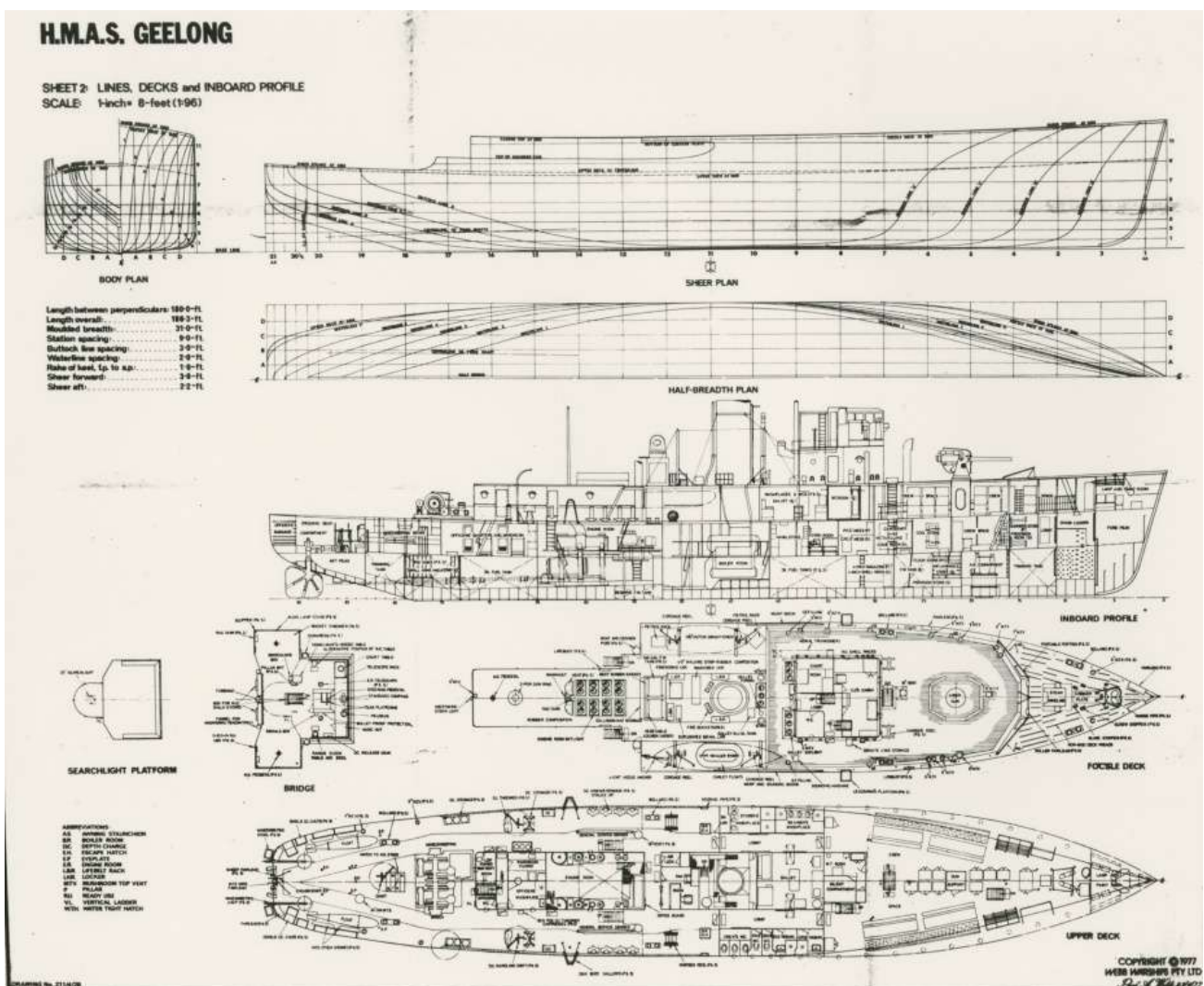


Left: Survivors of the crew of Geelong, which sunk following a collision with the US tanker York (AWM 076609). Right: Aerial port bow view of the American tanker York which rammed and sank Geelong on 18 October 1944.

Morning Bulletin (Rockhampton, Qld) Sat 28 Oct 1944:**HMAS Geelong SUNK IN COLLISION**

MELBOURNE, October 27

HMAS *Geelong*, an Australian built corvette, has been sunk as the result of a collision, there were no casualties. Announcing this today, the Minister for the Navy (Mr Makin) said that the sinking occurred in northern waters when the ship was on patrol and escort work. *Geelong* is the second corvette and the 10th ship of the Royal Australian Navy lost in the five years of the war. The total RAN casualties have been 1259 killed, 567 missing, 325 prisoners of war, and 447 wounded.



HMAS Geelong General Arrangement Drawing. (Webb Warships Pty Ltd 1977)

H.M.A.S. GEELONG