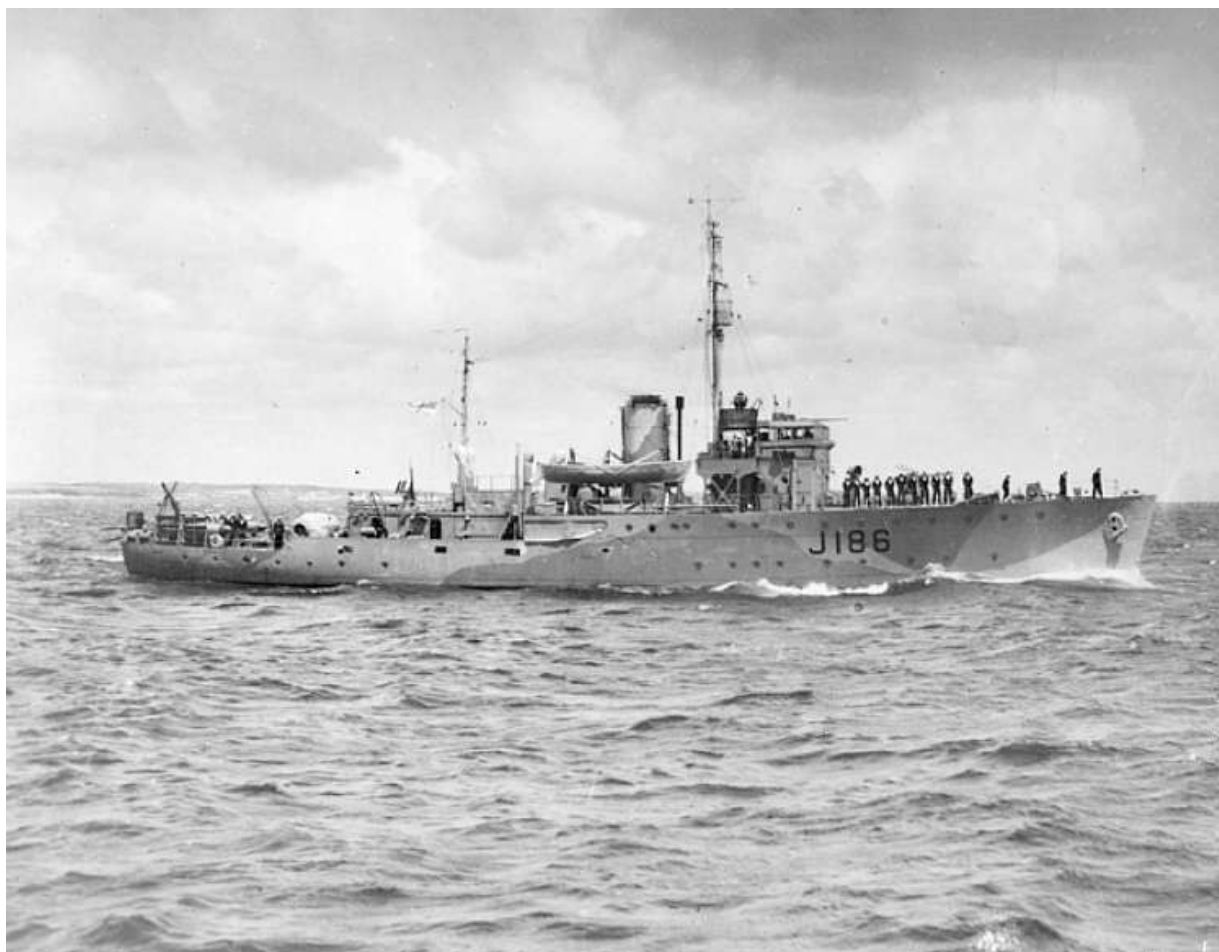


HMAS *Ipswich* – J186/B244/A118



Namesake: City of Ipswich, QLD
Builder: Evans Deakin & Co
Laid down: 6 March 1941
Launched: 11 August 1941
Commissioned: 13 June 1942
Decommissioned: 5 July 1946
Motto: "Dare to Defy"
Battle honours:

Pacific 1942
Indian Ocean 1942–45
Sicily 1943
East Indies 1944
Okinawa 1945

Transferred to RNN Netherlands

Name: Morotai
Commissioned: 5 July 1946
Decommissioned: 1949

Transferred to TNI-AL Indonesia

Name: Hang Tuah
Commissioned: 1949
Fate: Sunk by CIA air attack 28 April 1958



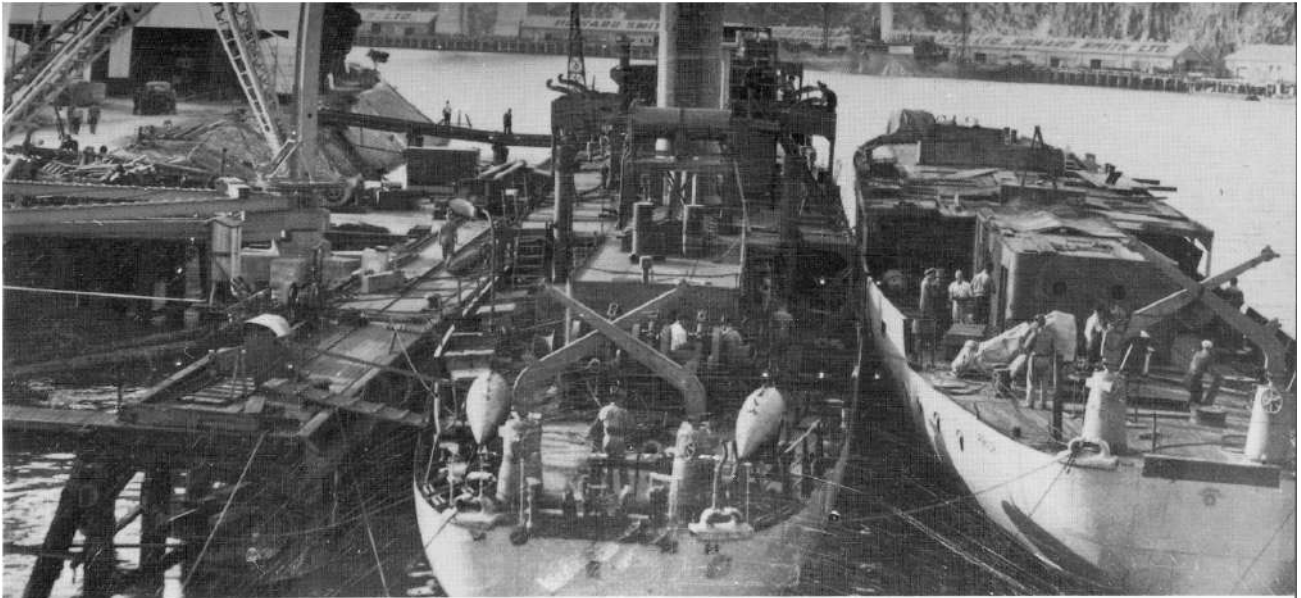
Displacement: 650 tons (standard)
1,025 tons (full war load)

Length: 186 ft (57 m)
Beam: 31 ft (9.4 m)
Draught: 8.5 ft (2.6 m)
Propulsion: triple-expansion steam engine,

2 shafts, 2,000 hp
Speed: 15 knots (28 km/h; 17 mph) at 1,750 hp
Complement: 85

Armament: 1 × 12-pounder gun (later replaced by 1 × 4-inch gun)
3 × Oerlikons (later 2)
1 × Bofors (installed later)
Machine guns
Depth charges, chutes and throwers

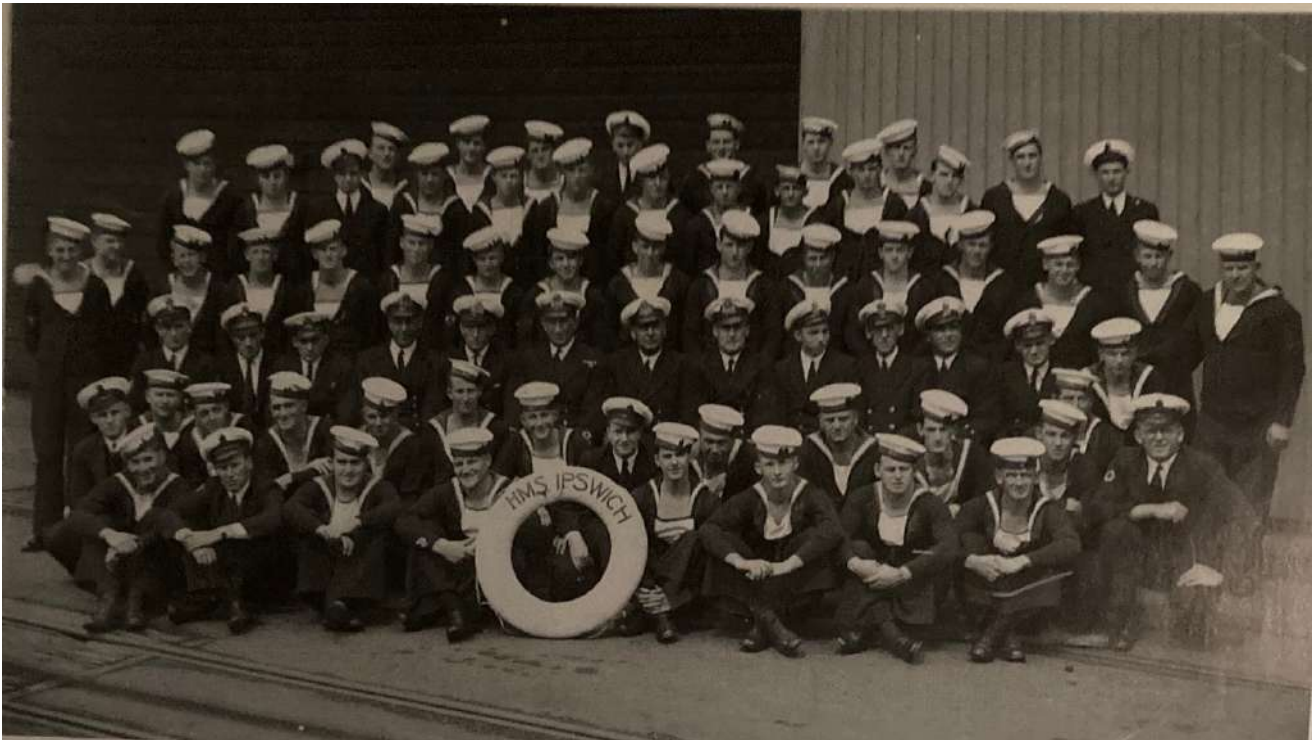
Ordered for the British Admiralty and commissioned by RAN, HMAS *Ipswich* was laid down at Evans Deakin & Co Ltd, Brisbane, Queensland on 26 March 1941. She was launched on 11 August 1941 by Mrs Foll, wife of the Minister for the Interior and was the first RAN warship to carry the name of the inland city, located south west of Brisbane, Queensland.



How they all began - two corvettes under construction at Evans Deakin shipyards, Brisbane. Launceston is on the left and Ipswich on the right. (Photo courtesy "Dutchy" Holland)

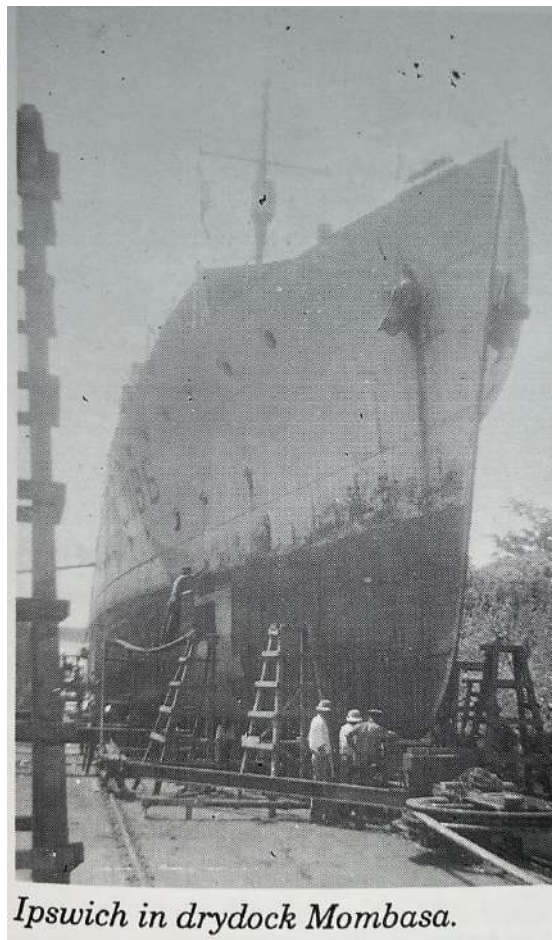
Ipswich commissioned at Brisbane on 13 June 1942 under the command of Lieutenant Commander John S McBryde RANR(S).





The crew of Ipswich before leaving Fremantle, circa November 1942.

After commissioning *Ipswich* was employed on escort duty on the Australian coast until October 1942. On 3 November 1942 she left Fremantle under orders to join the Eastern Fleet, based at Kilindini.



Ipswich in drydock Mombasa.



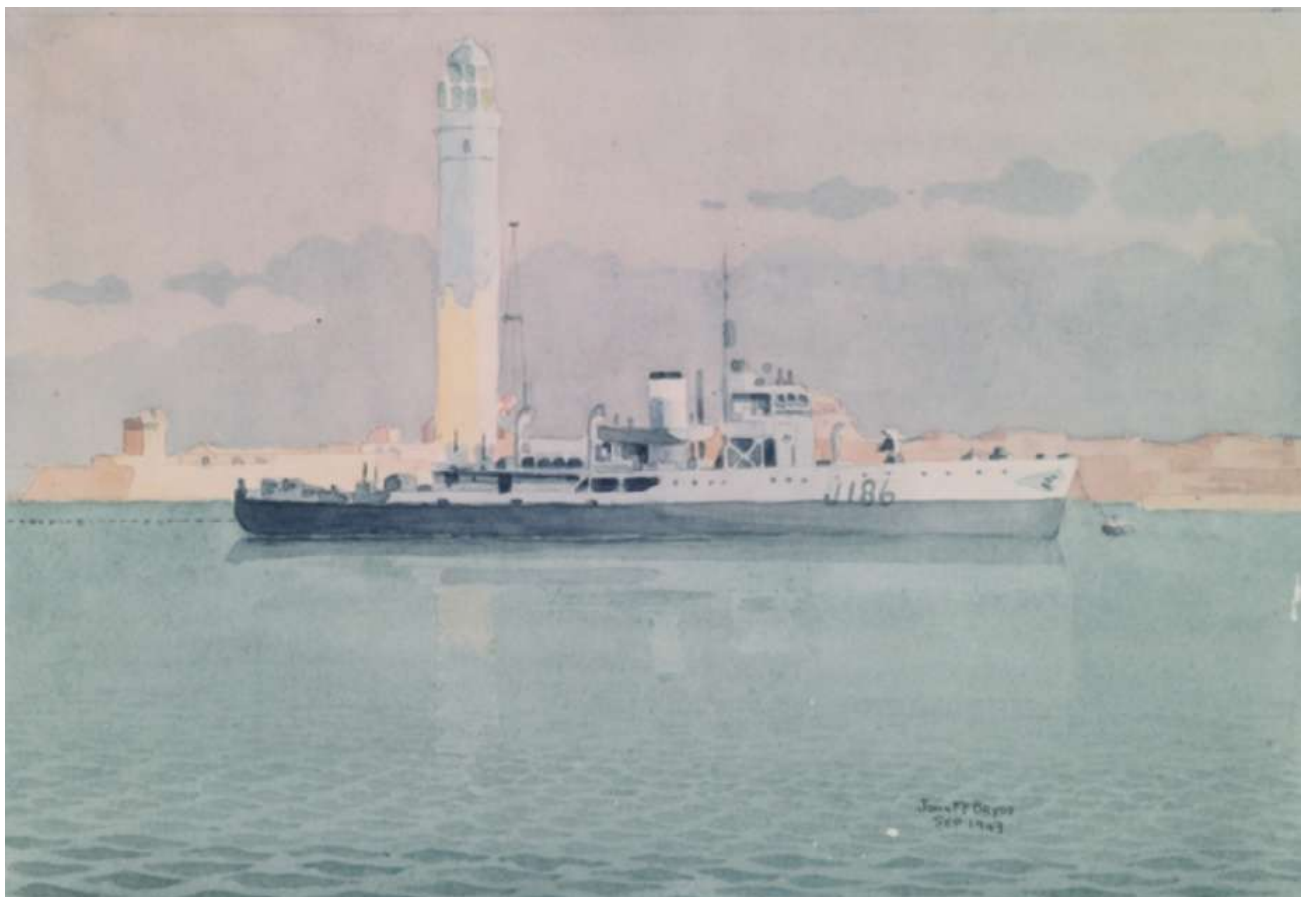
Tom the cat and Jerry the monkey. At one stage we did have three monkeys.

For the next six months *Ipswich* was almost constantly at sea on escort and anti-submarine patrol duty in the western Indian Ocean and between the Persian Gulf and India.



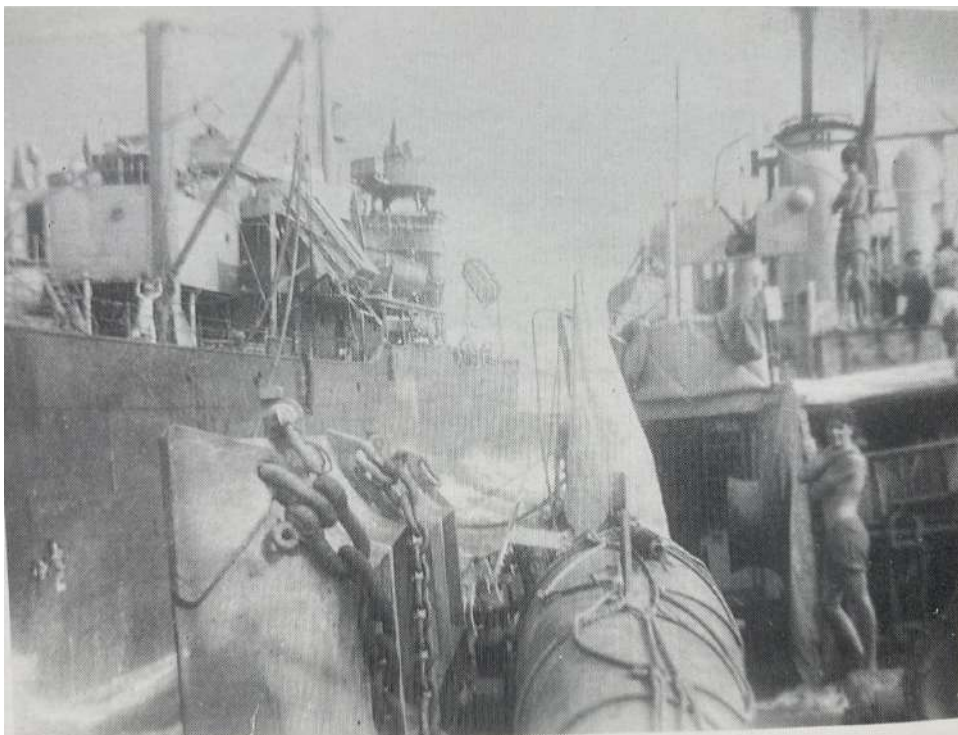
Left: Ipswich anchored in the inlet Khor Khui, Musandam Peninsula, Oman, circa March 1943. This sketch, by John McBryde, was used as a preliminary sketch for a later illustration entitled 'HMAS 'Ipswich' at Khor Khui', 1979. The long, sheltered inlet at Khor Khui was a safe refuge where vessels could anchor between periods of duty while refuelling and resupplying (John McBryde, AWM ART92769). Right: Ipswich doing convoy escort in the Persian Gulf in April 1943. The blue colour indicates the phosphoresce of a moonlit evening. (John McBryde, AWM ART92750)

In May 1943 the ship was transferred to the Mediterranean for service as a unit of the 21st Minesweeping Flotilla. In the Mediterranean she took part in the Sicily campaign and on escort and patrol duty she steamed over a wide area of the Mediterranean visiting, among other places, Oran, Haifa, Alexandria, Tobruk, Benghazi, Bizerta, Tripoli, Algiers, Malta, Gibraltar and the Dodecanese.



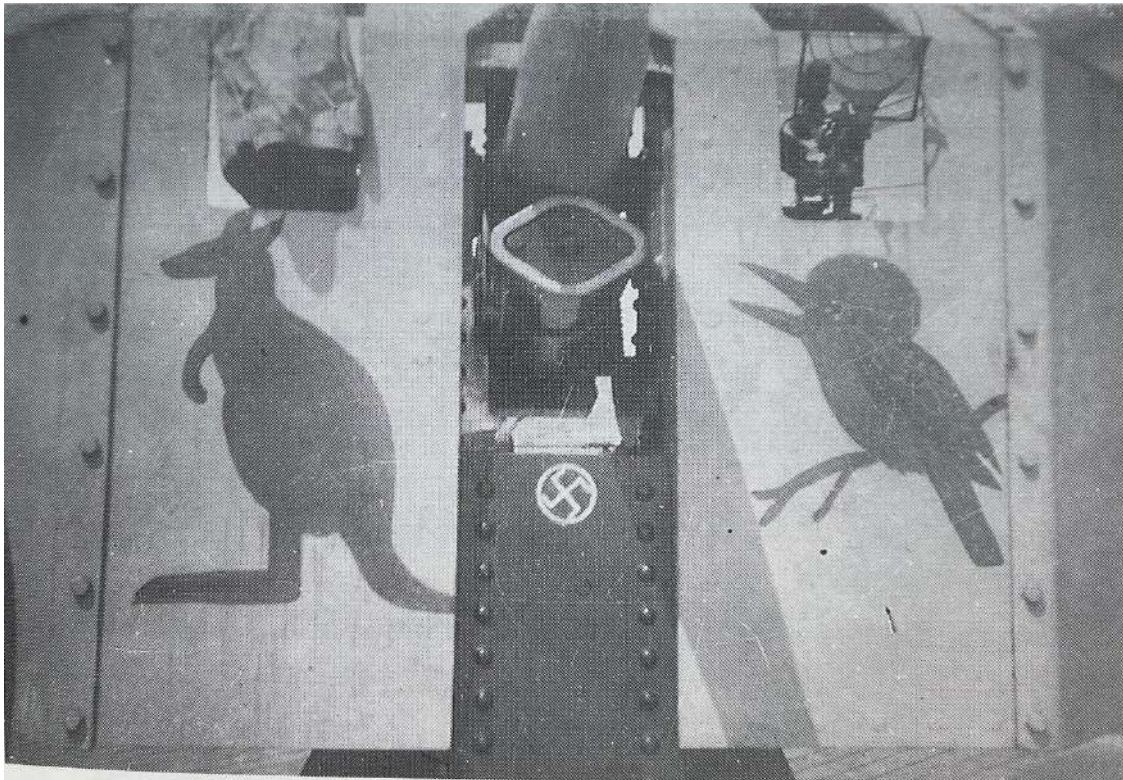
Ipswich anchored off Ras el Tin, Alexandria, North Egypt, circa September 1943. This particular image depicts Ipswich before it embarked upon the journey between Alexandria and Gibraltar. Ipswich played an important role as an escort vessel during the Second World War. (John McBryde, AWM ART92757)

At Syracuse on 25 July 1943, *Ipswich* was credited with shooting down a twin engined bomber. The following month she proceeded to the Atlantic to form part of the escort of an Alexandria bound convoy, and despite numerous air attacks in the Mediterranean the ship escaped damage.



Oiling at sea, Indian Ocean.

On 29 October 1943 *Ipswich* departed Port Said to re-join the Eastern Fleet and resume Indian Ocean escort duty. At the end of the year she had steamed 61,360 miles in eighteen months of service.



Ipswich's twelve-pounder.

On 11 February 1944, aided by her sister ship HMAS *Launceston* and the Indian sloop HMIS *Jumna*, she destroyed the Japanese submarine RO-110 off the east coast of India, which had sunk the cargo ship *Peshawar*.



SS Peshawar



Ipswich picks up survivors of the cargo ship Peshawar, torpedoed and sunk by Japanese submarine RO-111 in the Indian Ocean, south of Madras, circa December 1943. (AWM P10932.007, AWM P10932.008 and AWM P10932.006)

The following month *Ipswich* herself barely escaped destruction when narrowly missed by a torpedo. At the time she formed part of the escort of a large Colombo bound troop convoy.



Left: Informal portrait of Chief Petty Officer Clifford Davies (Cliff) 'Buffer' Stevens, who served on Ipswich and later HMAS Junee (AWM P10932.003). Right: Studio portrait of Stoker Dene Trigg, HMAS Cerberus. Stoker Trigg enlisted on 30 April 1941, one of six siblings in the Trigg family to enlist for service during the Second World War. He served aboard various vessels, including: HMAS Warrnambool, HMAS Ipswich and HMAS Shropshire. He was demobilised 29 October 1948. (AWM P11369.011)



Left: Informal group portrait of crew members on the deck of Ipswich (AWM P10932.002).

Right: A crew member of Ipswich operates a depth charge thrower. (AWM P10932.005)

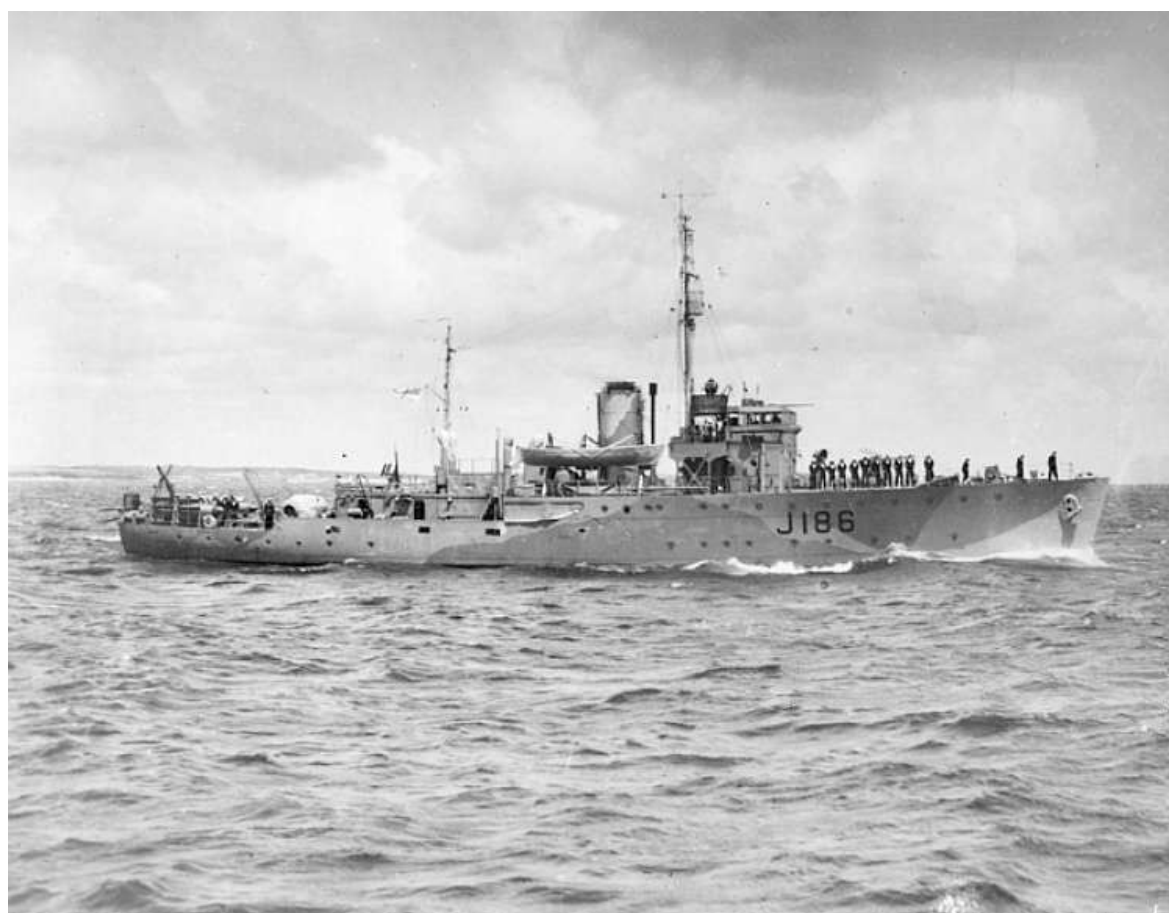


Ipswich continued serving in the Indian Ocean operating mainly between Ceylon and India until July 1944, when she proceeded to Australia for refit.

In November 1944, following a brief period of service based on Fremantle, she returned to Colombo and began her third period of duty as an Eastern Fleet escort vessel.



Some of the crew, August 1944



HMAS Ipswich.

On 21 January 1945 her Indian Ocean service finally ended when she commenced her return passage to Australia. There, as a unit of the 22nd Minesweeping Flotilla, she joined the British Pacific Fleet and until the end of hostilities was on constant escort duty in the New Guinea area and to the Philippines. At the end of August 1945 *Ipswich* arrived in Tokyo Bay in preparation for the Japanese surrender ceremony on 2 September on board USS *Missouri*.



Ipswich docked at a wharf at Yokohama, Japan, September 1945.



Crew members ashore at Yokasuka Naval Base, September, 1945



Group portrait of crew members of Ipswich at Flour Mill Wharf, South Brisbane, March 1946.

Following a period of surveillance duty in New Guinea, *Ipswich* returned to Australia, arriving at Brisbane on 15 February 1946.

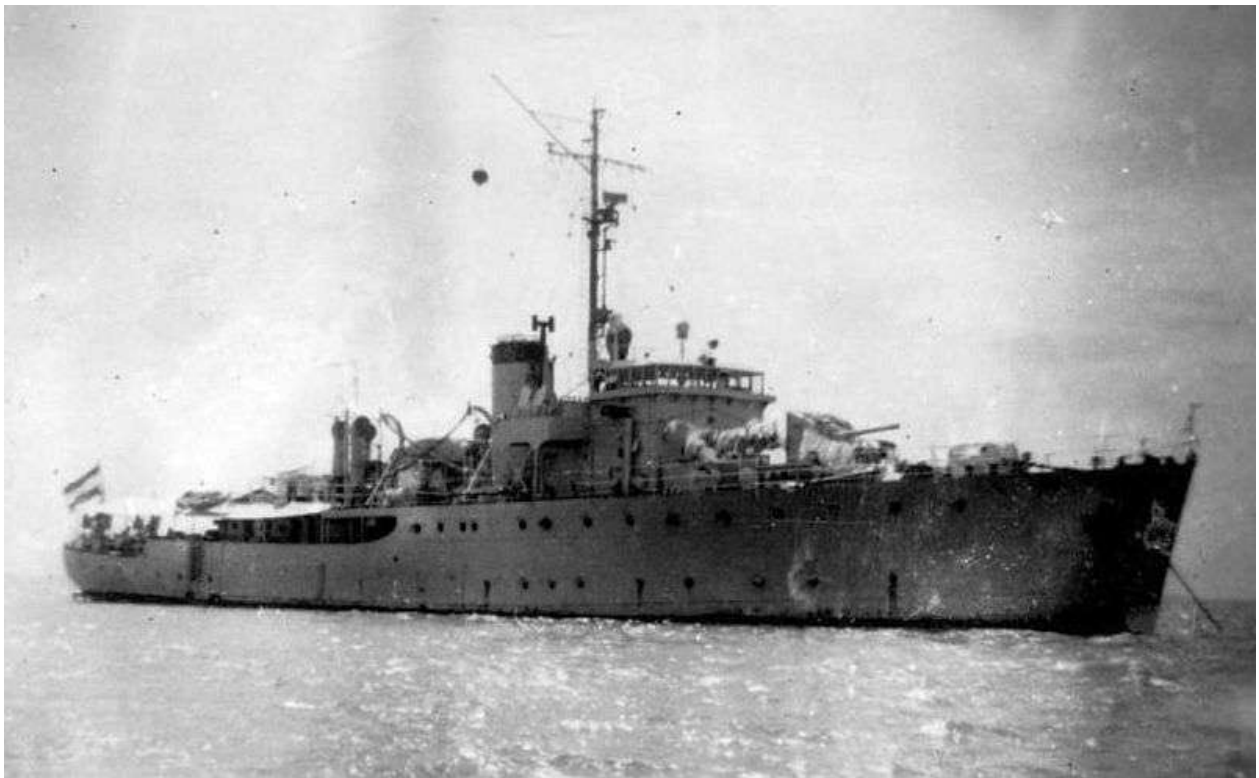


Ipswich Honour Board



On 4 June 1946 she departed for Ceylon where she was to be handed over to the Royal Netherlands Navy. During her RAN commission *Ipswich* had steamed some 143,000 miles.

HMAS *Ipswich* was retired from RAN services in Trincomalee on 5 July 1946 and entered service with the Royal Navy as HMS *Ipswich*. Going via Sabang the corvette left the following day for Tandjong Priok where her name was changed into HMNS *Morotai*.



HMNS Morotai.

During Dutch service carried the Pennant numbers **B244, MV28, PK8, P13**. Till the end of 1949 *Morotai* was active in the East Indian waters during the Indonesian independence struggle.

On 28 December 1949 the vessel was transferred to the Indonesian Navy who took her into service as KRI *Hang Tuah*, with Pennant Number 253.



KRI Hang Tuah

On April 28, 1958, a CIA pilot, William Beale, flying a B-26 bomber aircraft that was painted black and showing no markings, dropped four 500 lb (230 kg) bombs on Balikpapan. The first damaged the runway at the Sultan Aji Muhammad Sulaiman Airport, the second set the British oil tanker SS San *Flaviano* on fire and sank her and the third bounced off the British tanker MV *Daronia* without exploding.

Beale's fourth bomb set on fire and sank the Indonesian Navy's corvette KRI *Hang Tuah* killing 18 crew and wounding 28: the end of *Ipswich*.

The CIA was supporting rebels fighting the troops of Indonesia's anti-colonial leader President Sukarno from 1957 till 1961, as part of US Cold War manoeuvres which ultimately led to the deaths of up to one million Indonesians.