

HMAS *Junee* – J362/M362



Namesake:	Town of Junee, NSW
Builder:	Poole & Steel
Laid down:	17 February 1943
Launched:	16 November 1943
Commissioned:	11 April 1944
Decommissioned:	21 January 1946
Recommissioned:	25 February 1953
Decommissioned:	21 August 1957
Reclassified:	Training ship (1953)

Battle honours:

New Guinea 1943

Pacific 1944–45

Fate: Sold for scrap in 1958



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

Length:	186 ft (57 m)
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Beam:	31 ft (9.4 m)
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Draught:	8.5 ft (2.6 m)
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Propulsion:	triple expansion engine, 2 shafts, 1,800 hp
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Speed:	15 knots (28 km/h; 17 mph) at 1,750 hp
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Complement:	85
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Armament:	1 × 4-inch gun, 1 × 40 mm anti-aircraft gun
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HMAS *Junee* was laid down at Poole and Steel Ltd, Sydney, NSW on 27 February 1943. She was launched on 16 November 1943 by Mrs Rosevear, wife of the Speaker of the House of Representatives and was the first RAN warship to carry the name of a medium sized town in the Riverina region of NSW.



Launch of Junee 1943

Junee commissioned at Sydney on 11 April 1944 under the command of Lieutenant George E Wood RANR(S).

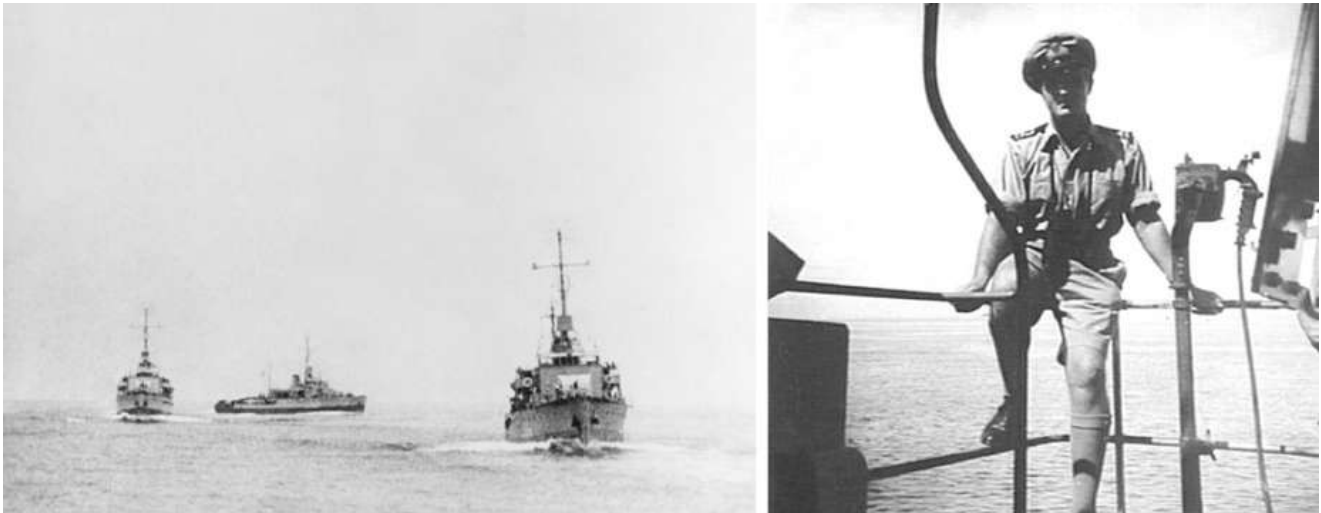


HMAS Junee. (Allan C Green, State Library of Victoria)

Following successful completion of her trials in the Sydney area, *Junee* spent a brief period in New Guinea waters before proceeding to Darwin where she arrived on 14 June 1944. *Junee* remained based on Darwin on anti-submarine patrol and survey duties until February 1945 when she proceeded to Melbourne for a refit after steaming some 28,000 miles. There were no incidents worthy of note during this period of service.

In April 1945 she proceeded to New Guinea waters where she was engaged on convoy escort and patrol duties. It was again mostly routine uneventful service for *Junee*, but in August she engaged the enemy for the first time when she sank three Japanese barges in Rouang Passage in the Sangi Group, north of the Celebes, while en route from Morotai to Borneo. The cessation of hostilities on 15 August 1945 found *Junee* at Balikpapan acting as the harbour defence ship.

In September 1945 *Junee* took part in the evacuation of the remnants of the Australian troops captured by the Japanese in Amboina in 1942. Later in the month she evacuated civilians from Menado (Celebes) to Morotai, and assisted in the transport of the Australian occupation force to Amboina.



Left: Three ships, HMAS Glenelg, HMAS Cootamundra and HMAS Junee, manoeuvre to enter the Ambon harbour, circa September 1945. This was taken from HMAS Latrobe and all ships were there to recover Prisoners of War (POWs) and transport them to Morotai. A total of 164 extremely emaciated POWs were brought from Ambon, seventy, including thirty eight stretcher cases needing medical attention. There were 123 Australians in this group all that remained of the original Gull Force of 800. (AWM P02493.002)

Right: Lieutenant Sangster, RANVR, Commanding Officer of Junee, on the bridge of his ship in Morotai, circa November 1945. (AWM 122613)

In October and November *Junee* was occupied assisting the restoration of Dutch authority in the Netherlands East Indies. The crew were able to witness colourful ceremonies at Ternate (Halmahera) when the Sultan was reinstated on 8 October and at Kendari (Celebes) on 26/27 November when Dutch authority was officially proclaimed in the area.

On 2 December 1945 *Junee*'s surveillance work in the East Indies came to an end and on that day she sailed from Macassar for Australia. She departed Morotai on 9 December and arrived at Sydney on 23 December 1945. She then proceeded to Melbourne where she paid off on 21 January 1946 after steaming 52,541 miles on war service.



HMAS Junee



A stretcher case from Amboina being disembarked at Morotai from the Australian corvette HMAS Junee, September 1945



Left: The bridge of Junee from the foredeck, circa 1945. (AWM 122614). Right: Talaud contact team on the deck on Junee. (AWM 122605)

The Herald (Melbourne) Thu 10 Jan 1946:

CORVETTE HAS LONG PENNANT

THE "PAYING OFF" pennant of the corvette HMAS *Junee*, now berthed in Melbourne, is more than 100 ft. long, and has to be tied to prevent its fouling the rigging. The corvette will be fully paid off within the next few weeks.

Junee recommissioned as a training ship at Melbourne on 25 February 1953 under the command of Lieutenant Commander Cecil J Cochran RAN. She operated in eastern Australian waters until 12 August 1953, when she sailed from Melbourne for Fremantle. She was subsequently engaged mainly on training duties in western and north western Australian waters until 1957.

The Daily News (Perth WA) Sat 14 Nov 1953:

***Junee* Ends a Mission**

HMAS *Junee*, which took a party of scientists from Onslow to the Montebellos to conduct an examination for residual radio activity there, returned to Fremantle today. The tests were made by some of the scientists who were engaged in last year's atomic bomb explosion. None of the complement of the *Junee* worked ashore at the Montebellos with the scientists. The *Junee* was on a training cruise with, national service trainees and Royal Australian Navy reservists. She will leave on another training expedition on Tuesday. The Naval boom defence ship Karangi also went to the Montebellos with the scientists, and is expected to return to Fremantle next Friday.



ALL SMILES: Lieutenants S. King, J. McIntyre and J. Berrell during pay day on the *Junee* in August 1953. Neg: Navy 1877e.



Junee Sydney 1953



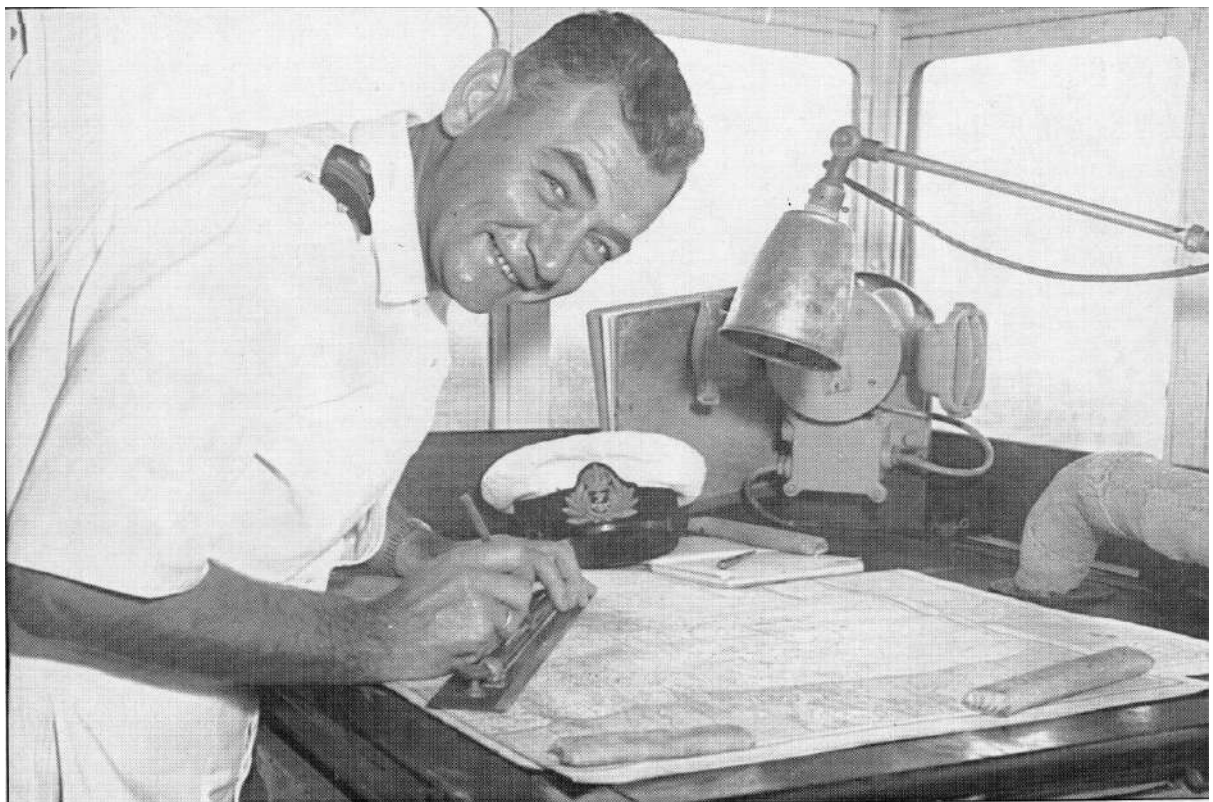
Junee 1954



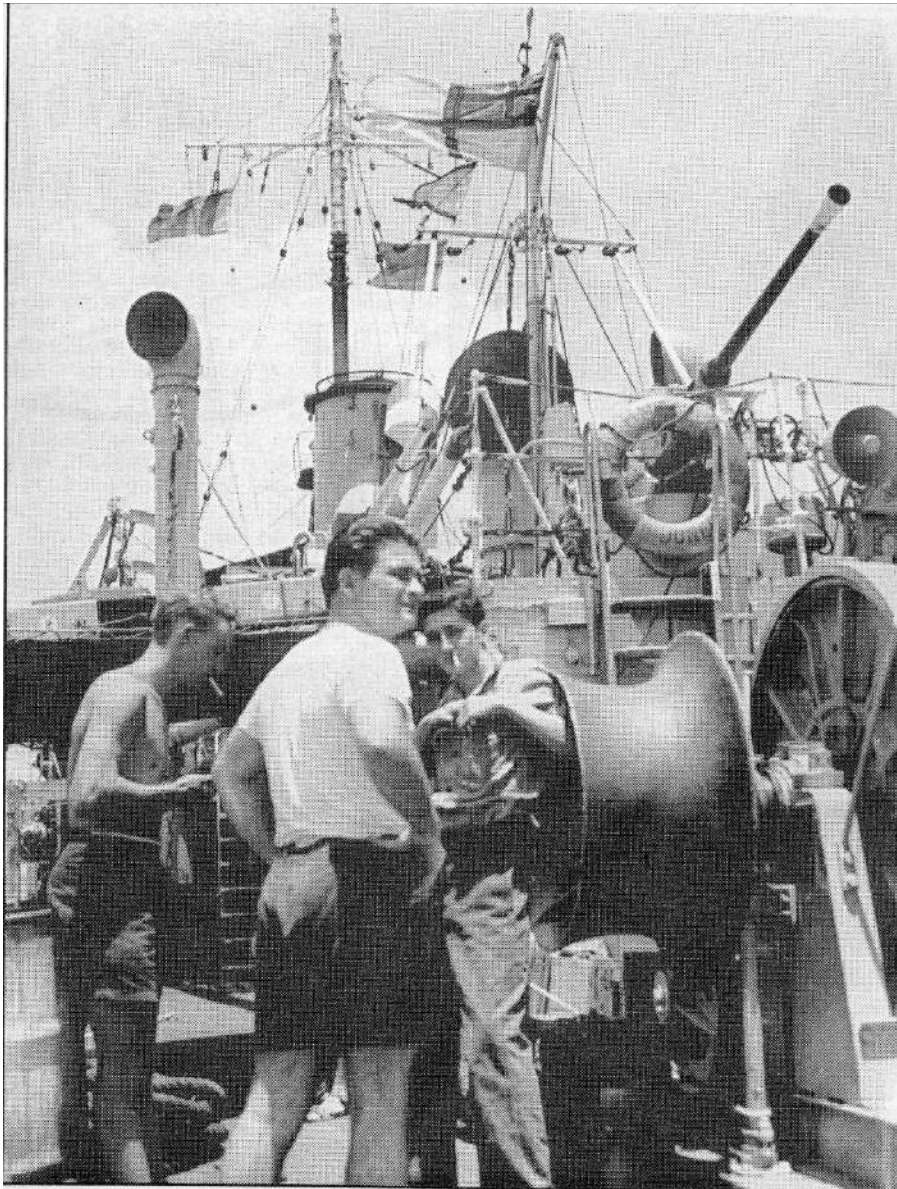
SHARING A JOKE: Five sailors laughing and reading in quarters on the *Junee*, December 10, 1956. Neg: Navy T6782.



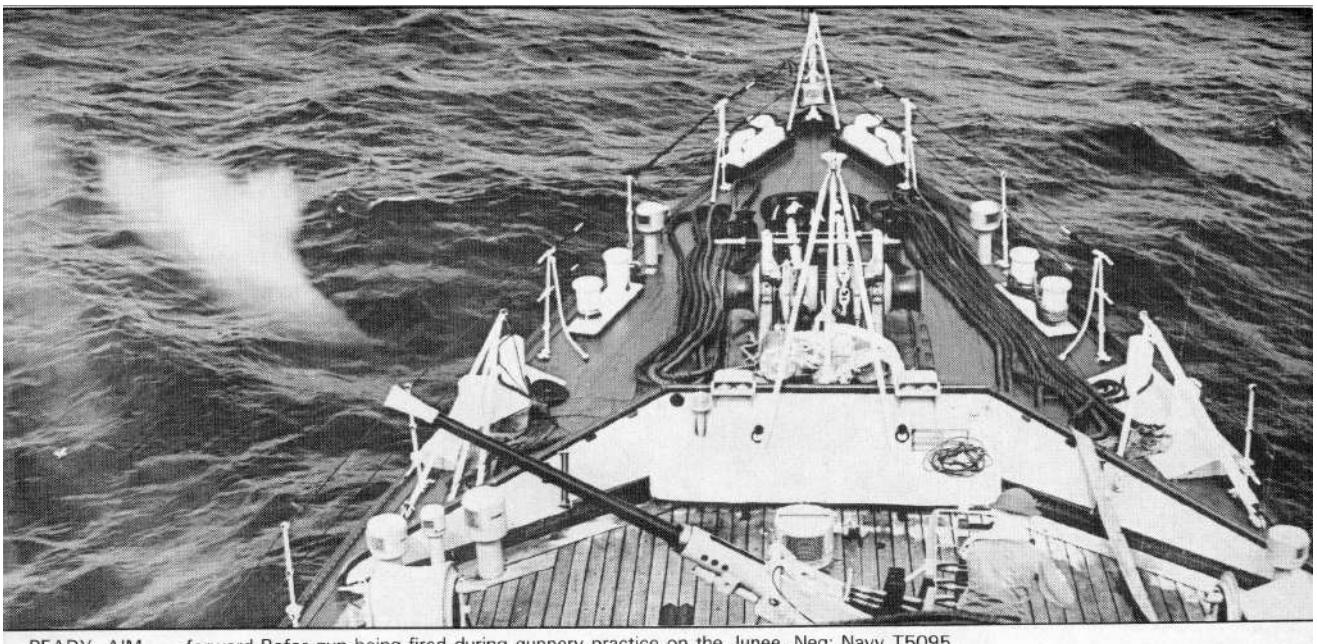
ON COURSE: Four men steering the Junee during a minesweeping exercise, December 1956. Neg: Navy T6796



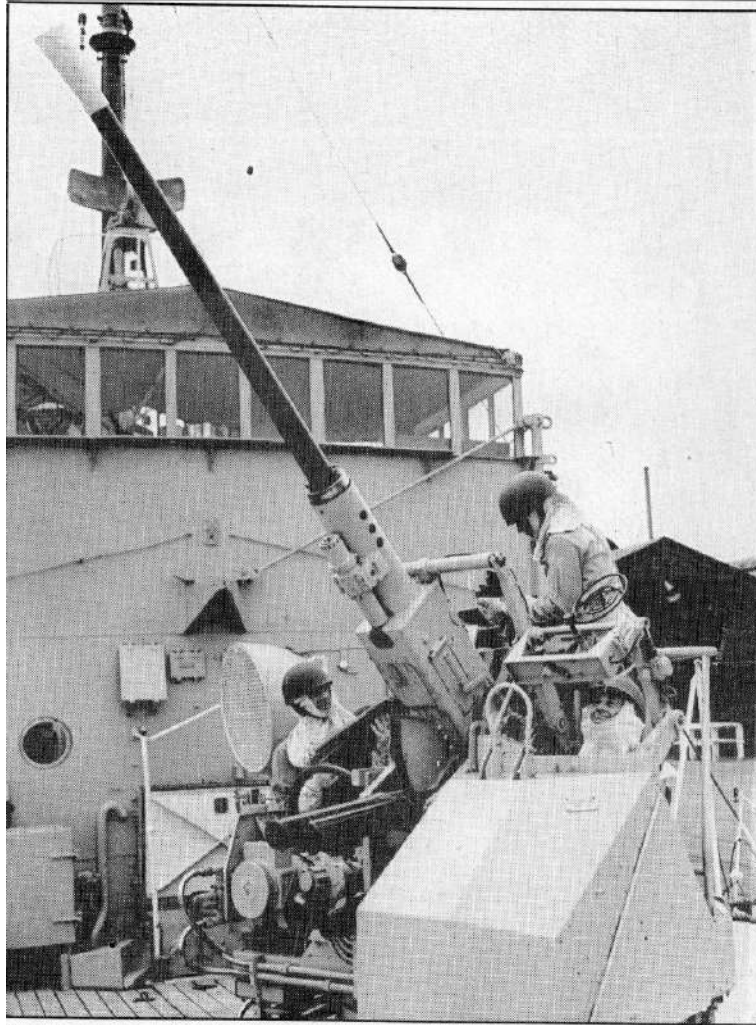
PLOTTING A NEW COURSE: Officer doing chart work on the Junee during the Geraldton minesweeping exercise. Neg: Navy T6795



Three sailors on aft deck of the *Junee* during the December 1956 minesweeping exercise. Neg: Navy T6788.



READY, AIM . . . forward Bofor gun being fired during gunnery practice on the *Junee*. Neg: Navy T5095



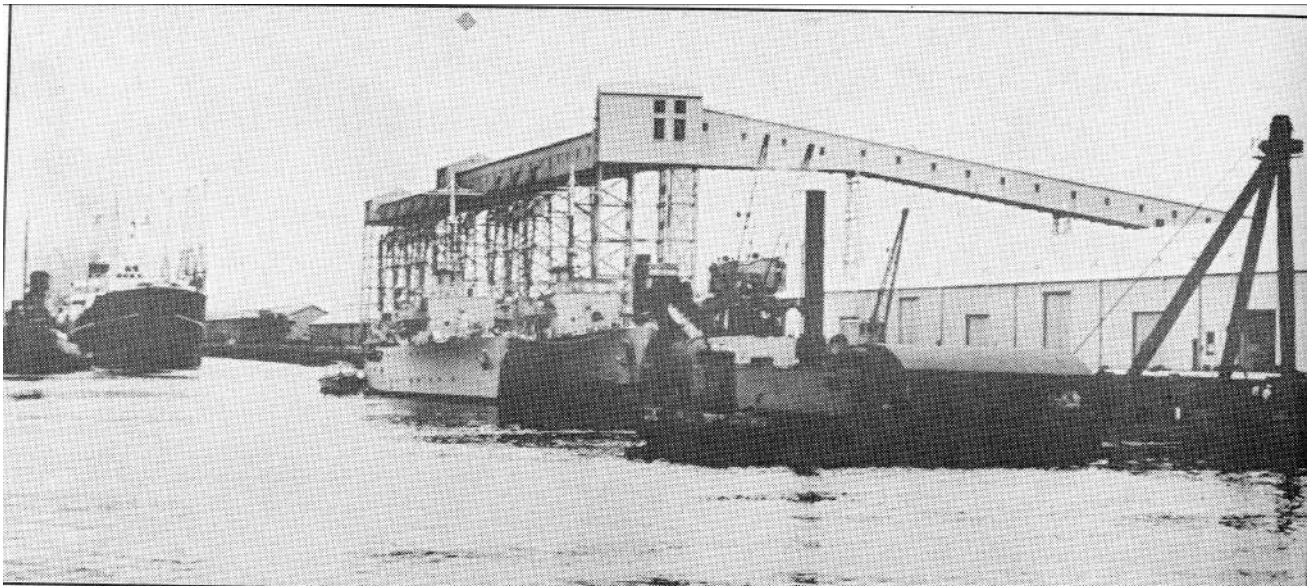
A fortnight earlier, the *Junee* was involved in gunnery practice. Here, national servicemen man a Bofor gun. Neg: Navy T5093.



National servicemen with ammunition during the gunnery exercise on November 27, 1956 Neg: Navy T5096.



In March/April 1957 *Junee* visited New Guinea calling at Port Moresby, Manus, Madang and Samarai. On 8 June 1957 *Junee* berthed at Fremantle for the last time as a seagoing ship of the Royal Australian Navy. During her service as a training ship she steamed a further 64,508 miles bringing her total mileage to 117,049 miles.



Junee outboard of Fremantle August 1957 at No 10 berth, North Wharf

Junee paid off on 21 August 1957 and was stripped of fittings. 18 June 1958 she was sold to Mr WG Davies of Fremantle for conversion to a fisheries parent ship.

Resold and hulked 1963. In 1968 the hull sunk 20 miles west of Rottnest Island, Western Australia.



Name Board



Cap Tally

