

HMAS *Kalgoorlie* – J192/B245/A119



Namesake: City of Kalgoorlie, WA
Builder: Broken Hill Pty Co Ltd
Laid down: 27 July 1940
Launched: 7 August 1941
Commissioned: 7 April 1942
Decommissioned: 8 May 1946

Battle honours:

Darwin 1942–43
 Pacific 1942–43
 New Guinea 1943–44
 Okinawa 1945

Fate: Transferred to RNN

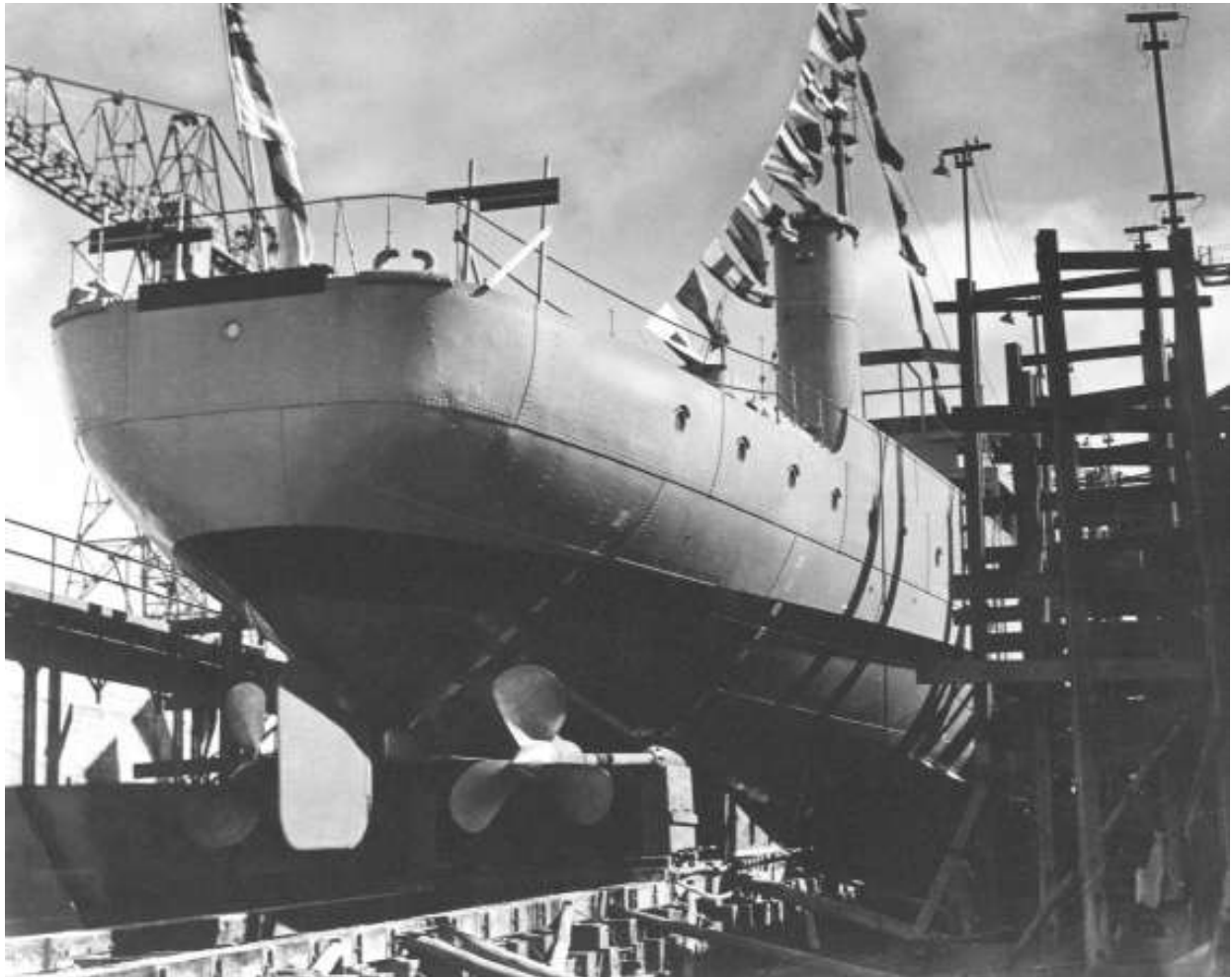
Netherlands

Name: Ternate
Acquired: 8 May 1946
Commissioned: 8 May 1946



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
 engine, 2 shafts
Speed: 15 knots (28
 km/h;
 17 mph) at 1,750
 hp
Complement: 85
Armament: 1 × 4-inch gun,
 3 × Oerlikons,
 1 × Bofors,
 Machine guns,
 Depth charges
 chutes & throwers

Ordered for the British Admiralty and commissioned by RAN, HMAS *Kalgoorlie* was laid down at Broken Hill Pty Ltd, Whyalla, SA on 27 July 1940. She was launched on 7 August 1941 by Mrs Playford, wife of the Premier of South Australia and was the first RAN warship to carry the name of the city, which is located 595 kilometres east northeast of Perth, WA.



Kalgoorlie prior to her launch at Broken Hill Pty Ltd, Whyalla, South Australia.

Kalgoorlie commissioned at Whyalla on 7 April 1942 under the command of Lieutenant Harold A Litchfield RANR(S).



After carrying out trials in Port Phillip Bay, *Kalgoorlie* commenced operational service in June 1942 on convoy escort duties on the east coast of Australia. On 28 July 1942 she sailed from Sydney for Darwin, arriving via Townsville on 9 August.



Having transferred to Darwin, *Kalgoorlie* was employed on further convoy escort duties between Thursday Island and Darwin.



Kalgoorlie wearing pennant number J192, armed with a 4-inch gun forward and three single 20mm Oerlikon AA guns on the bridge wings and aft. She is camouflaged in an all over dark grey paint scheme. Note buildings of Garden Island, Sydney in the background.

During September 1942 *Kalgoorlie* transported troops to Timor and on 25 September, in company with her sister ship HMAS *Warrnambool*, safely evacuated the ship's company of HMAS *Voyager*, which had run aground at Betano Bay, in Timor, two days earlier.

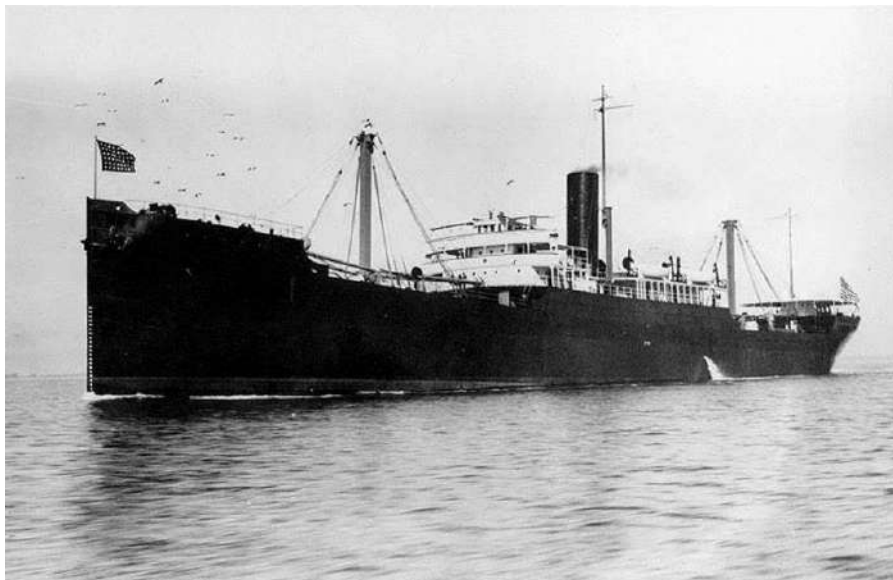
In November 1942 *Kalgoorlie* operated in support of Operation LIZARD III, a clandestine Services Reconnaissance Department operation in Timor. During the following month, December 1942, and under sporadic air attack, she searched for survivors of HMAS *Armidale*, which had been sunk on 1 December, rescuing 20 personnel from a damaged motor boat on 6 December. Three days later, she rescued a further 29 survivors from *Armidale's* whaler.

Kalgoorlie continued to escort convoys between Darwin and Thursday Island until late February 1943 when she returned to the Australian east coast. From April to December 1943, *Kalgoorlie* escorted convoys on the east coast of Australia.

During this period only one ship in a convoy escorted by *Kalgoorlie* was lost by enemy action.

Convoy GP55 departed Sydney for Brisbane on 15 June 1943, and comprised 10 merchant ships, three American Landing Ships Tank (LSTs), and was escorted by *Kalgoorlie* and her sister ships HMA Ships *Warrnambool*, *Deloraine*, *Cootamundra* and *Bundaberg*.

On 16 June, with the convoy east of Smoky Cape, the SS *Portmar* was struck by a torpedo and sank within 10 minutes by Japanese submarine I-124. LST 469 was damaged by another torpedo and towed to the safety of port. *Kalgoorlie* then conducted an unsuccessful search for the attacking submarine throughout the following days.



SS Portmar

Between January and June 1944 *Kalgoorlie* carried out escort duties between north Queensland ports and New Guinea. She reverted to the east coast of Australia for the remainder of the year, with the occasional visit to New Guinea.

In August and September 1944, *Kalgoorlie* and her sister ship HMAS *Pirie* commenced the clearance of defensive minefields that had been laid in and through the Great Barrier Reef by HMAS *Bungaree* in 1942 and 1943. A total of 491 mines were swept during these initial mine clearance operations.



In December 1944 *Kalgoorlie* joined the 21st Minesweeping Flotilla, British Pacific Fleet. In January 1945 she visited Hobart and in late February sailed for the forward areas, reaching Ulithi Atoll on 24 March 1945 and Leyte Gulf in the Philippines on 31 March.



Kalgoorlie wearing her British Pacific Fleet pennant number, B245. (Allan C Green, State Library of Victoria)



Left: Kalgoorlie off Fortification Point, Finschhafen, New Guinea, circa July 1945. It is surrounded by hills and dwarfed by the mountainous landscape in the background. Artwork by John McBryde (AWM ART92764). Right: This watercolour drawing depicts HMAS Kalgoorlie (centre background) and Whyalla (left) of the 21st Mine Sweeping Flotilla and USS Randolph (right) at Ulithi, Caroline Islands, Philippines, circa March 1945. Artwork by John McBryde. (AWM ART92761)



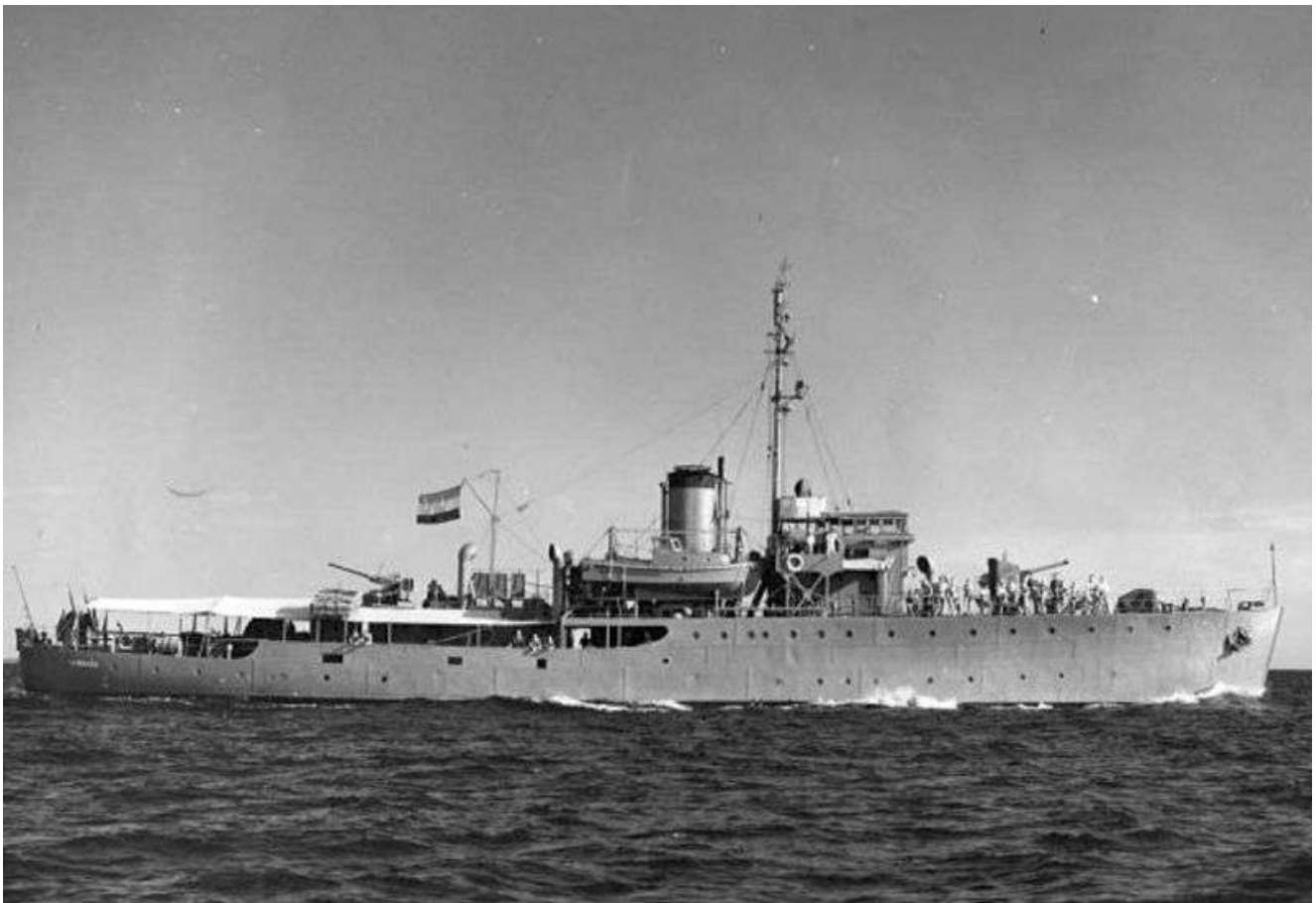
Australian sailors arriving ashore Rara Island, Seeadler Harbour, Manus Island in the Admiralties, in landing boats from Kalgoorlie. The men seem to be at leisure, with some swimming in the water around the boats while others converge and relax on the beach. Artwork is by John McBryde. (AWM ART92755)

Kalgoorlie continued to operate in the forward areas until she arrived in Brisbane of 15 July 1945 for refit. She was still in refit at Brisbane when hostilities ceased on 15 August 1945.

Departing Brisbane on 26 September 1945, *Kalgoorlie* returned to New Guinea waters. She returned to Australian waters in January 1946 and between 2 and 10 March 1946 visited Esperance in Western Australia to pay a visit to her namesake town of *Kalgoorlie*.

HMAS *Kalgoorlie* paid off at Melbourne and was retired from Australian service on May 8th, 1946, having steamed 131,607 miles. She was taken over by the Royal Navy as HMS *Kalgoorlie*. On 8 May 1946 *Kalgoorlie* was transferred to the Royal Netherlands Navy and renamed *Ternate*.

On 28 June of the same year the corvette left for Makassar and from there to Kupang on Dutch Timor. On 16 July 1946 the ship was transferred to the Royal Netherlands Navy and was officially named Hr.Ms *Ternate* from that day onwards.



Ternate

Just like her sister ships *Ternate* was kept busy patrolling, showing the flag and supporting the policing actions in Indonesia till the end of 1949. In 1950 the corvette left for the Netherlands for heavy maintenance.

Two years later she was posted on station in New Guinea and arrived on 20 December 1952 in Sorong. On 19 September the corvette left from Sorong to Townsville, Sydney and Cairns on the Australian east coast before the ship returned to her base in Netherlands New Guinea on 22 December. On August 17th, 1955, Hr.Ms *Ternate* left via Singapore, Colombo, Aden, the Suez Canal, Messina and Gibraltar to Den Helder, arriving on 27 October 1955. During Dutch service carried Pennant numbers **B245, MV23, PK3, P8, M816, F812, A874**.



Kalgoorlie was transferred to the Royal Netherlands Navy and was renamed *Ternate*. A 40mm Bofors AA gun has replaced the after 20mm Oerlikon AA gun. The Oerlikons on the bridge wings have been retained.

The Courier Mail (Brisbane, Qld) Wed 18 Nov 1953:

CANBERRA, (by teleprinter) — The Netherlands Navy corvette *Ternate* — formerly HMAS *Kalgoorlie* — will enter Williamstown Dockyard on December 7 for repairs. The Navy Minister (Mr. McMahon), who stated this to-day, said that *Ternate* left Hollandia on November 12 and would reach Cairns on November 24.

The Courier Mail (Brisbane, Qld) Tues 8 Dec 1953:

MELBOURNE (by teleprinter) — The Dutch Navy corvette *Ternate*, formerly HMAS *Kalgoorlie*, reached Melbourne yesterday for a fortnight's refit at Williamstown naval dockyard. Her captain, Lieut. Commander W. L. Van Leeuwen said that her main duty was guarding against the smuggling of textiles, sugar, and coffee into Hollandia from Indonesia.



Arriving Williamstown Dockyard. One of the crew lifts ship's mascot to look at Melbourne.

In 1956 *Ternate* was made available to the Technical Training Centre of the Dutch Royal Navy (TOKM) in Amsterdam. On 21st September, 1961, the ship was sold to be scrapped.