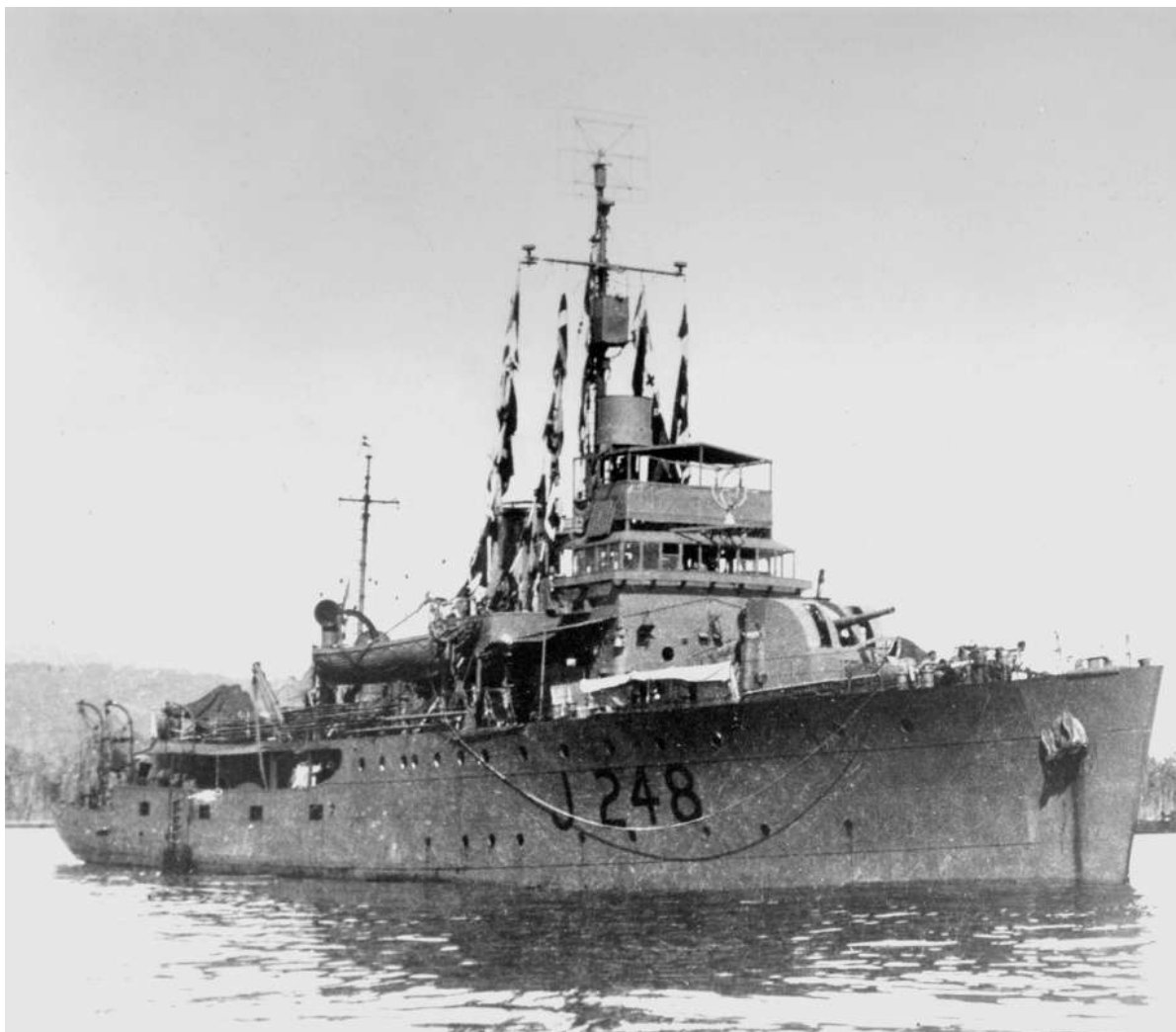


HMAS Shepparton – J248

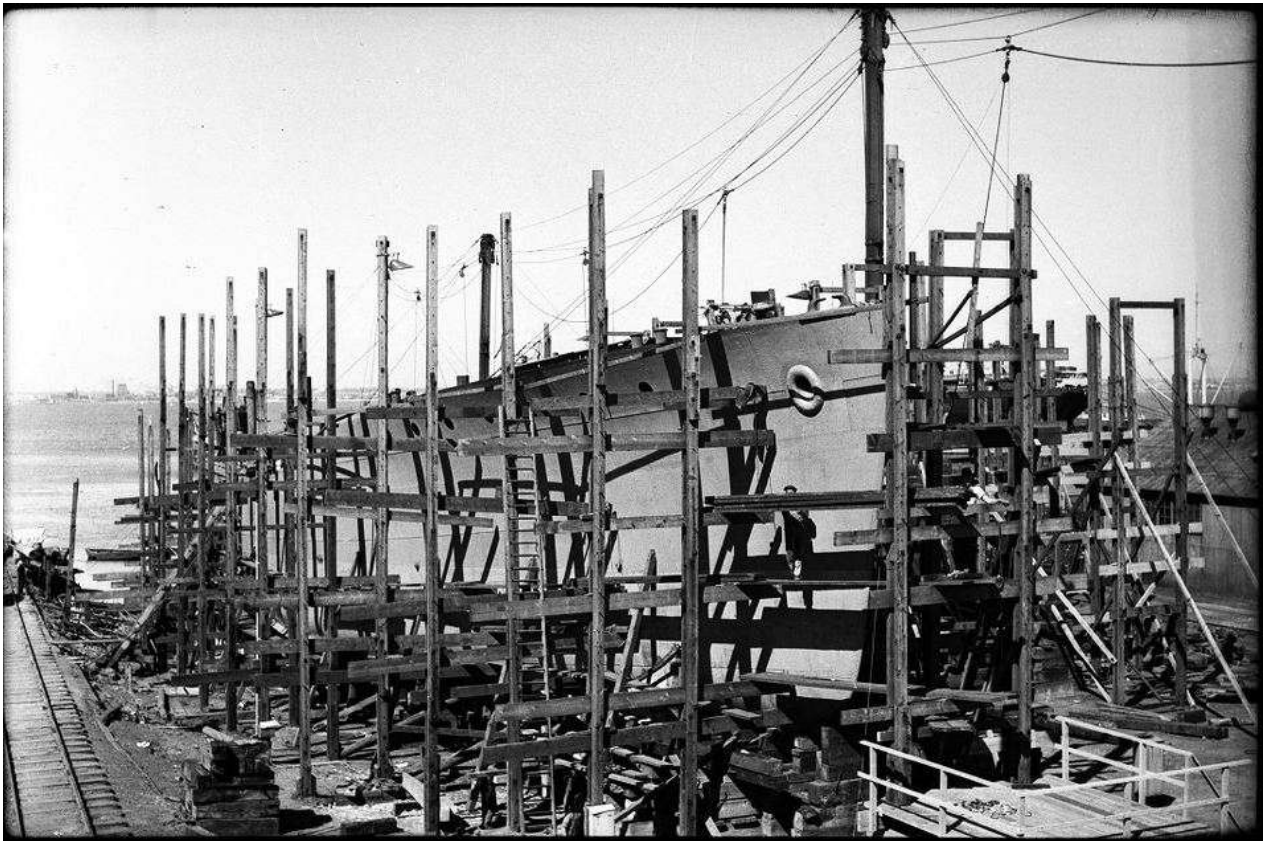


Namesake: City of Shepparton, Vic
Builder: HMA Naval Dockyard
Laid down: 14 November 1941
Launched: 15 August 1942
Commissioned: 1 February 1943
Decommissioned: 10 May 1946
Motto: "By Wisdom And Courage"
Battle honours:
Pacific 1943
New Guinea 1943–44
Fate: Scrapped in 1958

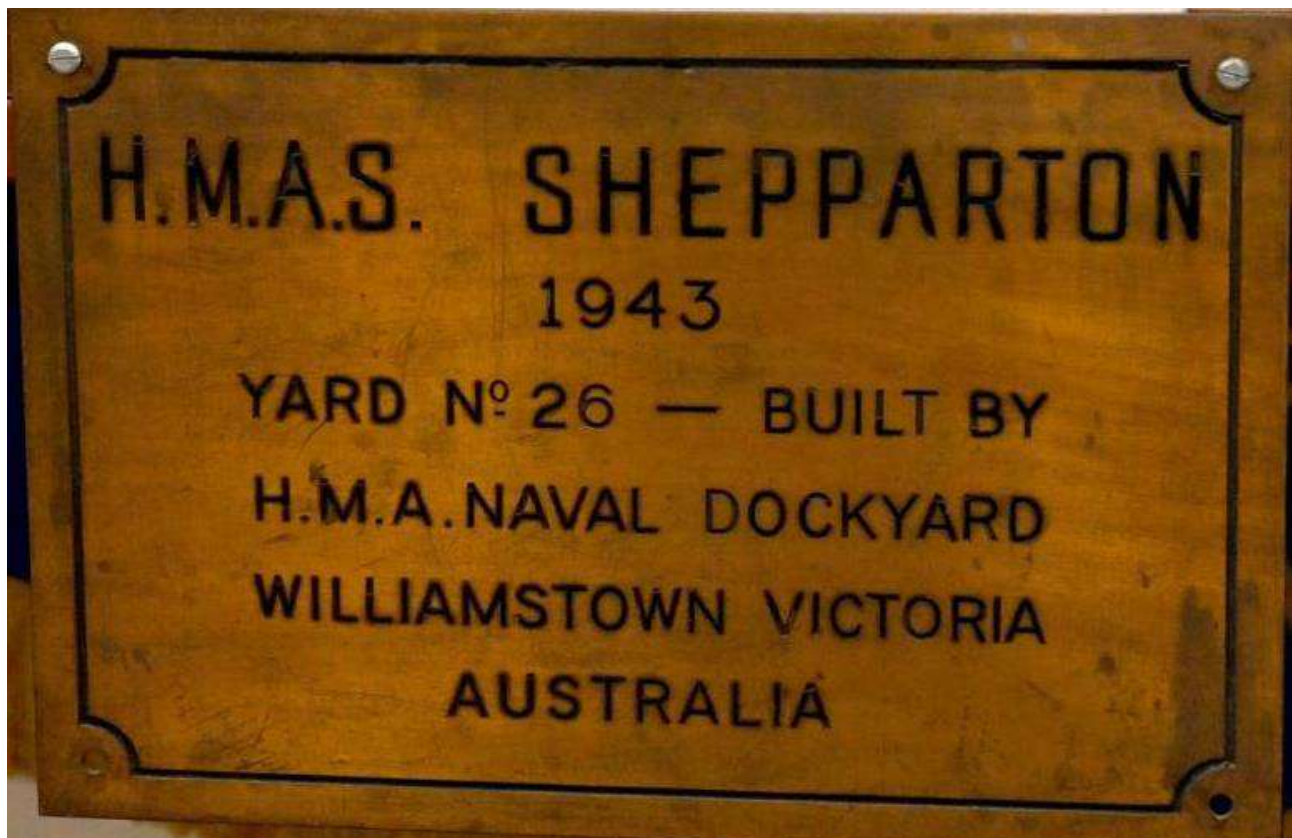


Displacement: 650 tons (standard), 1,025 tons (full war load)
Length: 186 ft (57 m)
Beam: 31 ft (9.4 m)
Draught: 8.5 ft (2.6 m)
Propulsion: triple expansion engine, 2 shafts, 1,800 hP
Speed: 15 knots (28 km/h; 17 mph) at 1,750 hp
Complement: 81
Armament: 1 × 4-inch gun
4 × 20 mm
Oerlikons
(1 later removed)
1 × 40 mm Bofors (installed later)
Machine guns
Depth charges
chutes and throwers

HMAS *Shepparton* was laid down at Melbourne Harbour Trust, Williamstown, Victoria on 14 November 1941. She was launched on 15 August 1942 by Lady Alice Goudie, wife of the Commissioner of Public Works.



Shepparton under construction



Shepparton commissioned at Melbourne on 1 February 1943 under the command of Lieutenant Commander Leslie Norman Morison RANR(S).



Following successful completion of her trials in home waters *Shepparton* proceeded to New Guinea at the end of April 1943 where she began operations as a Survey Ship.

For the next seventeen months, except for occasional visits to Queensland ports, *Shepparton* was operational on survey duties in New Guinea and New Britain waters. This period of her service ended with a survey of Endeavour Strait and Scott's Reef.



Shepparton wearing her disruptive pattern camouflage paint scheme.

On 8 October 1944 *Shepparton* arrived at Darwin where she became attached to the Survey Task Unit operating in the area to begin a series of surveys in north west Australian waters.

The survey group was undertaking hydrographic surveys of the approaches to Darwin through the Timor Sea in anticipation of the ships of the British Pacific Fleet using this passage to transit from the Indian Ocean. On 1 February 1945 she began refitting at Brisbane, returning to Darwin on 2 April to resume survey work between Cape Croker and New Year Island.



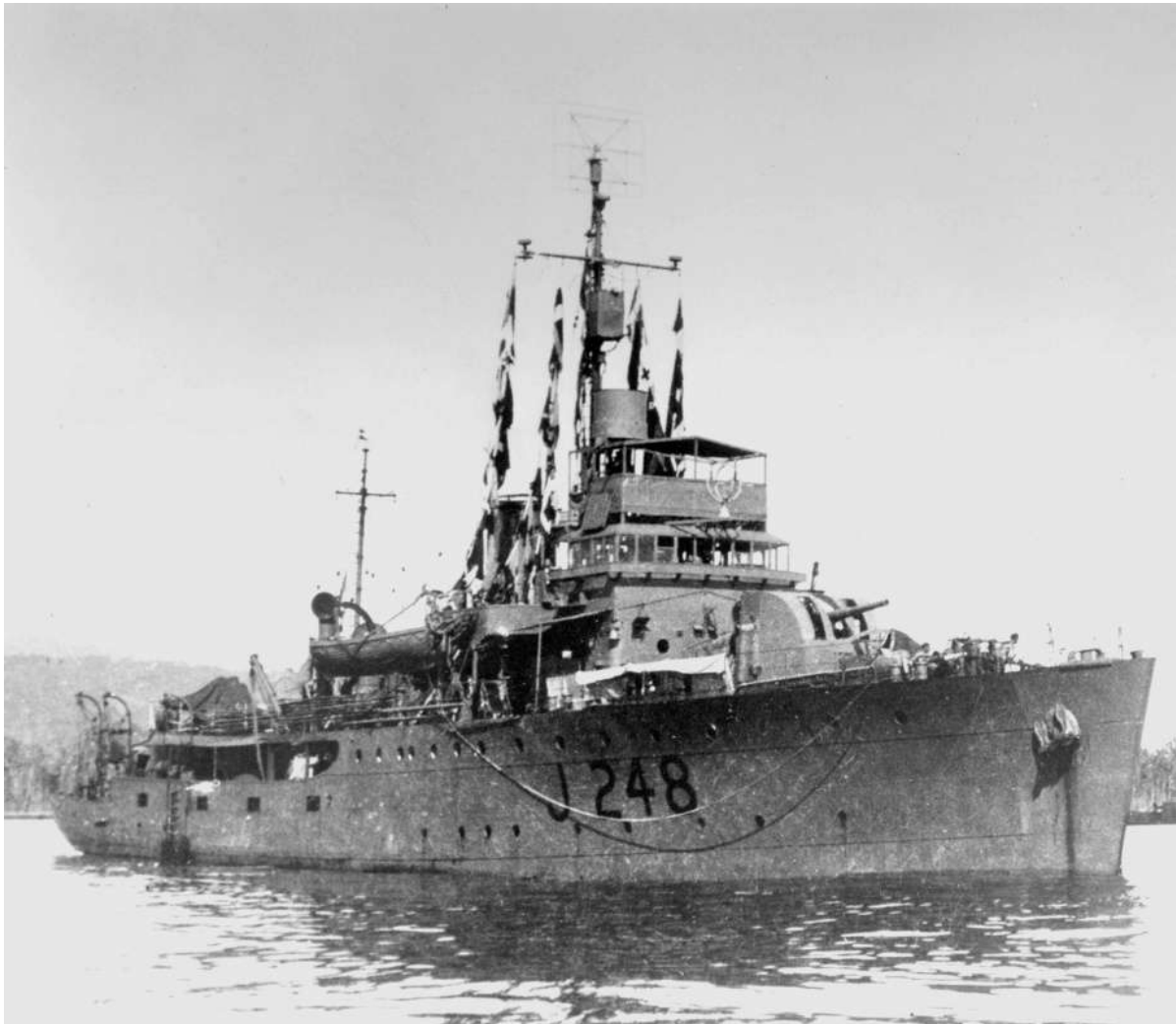
Left: Shepparton underway, seen from the bridge of HMAS Moresby, in the Timor Sea, circa 1944. On the bridge of HMAS Moresby are Lieutenant Lewis A Jones RANVR (left) and Moresby's captain Commander Colin G Little OBE DSC MID. (AWM P02305.015). Right: Shepparton underway.



Left: A Japanese Harbour Master arriving on board Shepparton to hand over military charts and documents after the surrender of Japanese forces at Rabul on 8 September 1945. (AWM P12402.005). Right: Studio group portrait of brothers Alan, Bruce, Desmond and John Drummond in their Australian Naval uniforms.

Sub Lieutenant Bruce William Drummond enlisted on 10 October 1941 and discharged on 20 March 1946. He served on the corvettes HMAS Dubbo and HMAS Shepparton. Bruce was present on Shepparton at the time of the survey for bombs in Rabul Harbour at the end of the war. After the war, Bruce studied medicine and became a doctor in his local town of Toowoomba. (AWM P04351.001)

On 13 June 1945 *Shepparton*'s work in the Darwin area ended and the next day she sailed for Thursday Island to resume operations in Torres Strait. On 2 September she sailed for Jacquinot Bay (New Britain) and thence to Rabaul where she spent ten days surveying in Simpson Harbour, returning to Jacquinot Bay on 17 September to take soundings of the anchorage. This work was completed in two days and *Shepparton* proceeded to the Solomons where she spent three weeks surveying the approaches to Torokina.



HMAS Shepparton differed in appearance from many of her sister corvettes in that she had a 'monkey island' fixed above the bridge as can be seen here.

On 21 October 1945 she arrived at Brisbane, bringing her service outside home waters to a close. After some further survey work on the Australian coast, including six weeks operating in Moreton Bay, *Shepparton*'s seagoing career ended early in February 1946. One of her last duties shortly before preparing to pay off was to assist in the refloating of her sister ship HMAS *Cairns*, which had grounded on Shark Spit, Moreton Island.

Shepparton paid off into Reserve at Brisbane on 10 May 1946. During her war service she steamed some 62,000 miles. On 4 November 1947 *Shepparton*'s sister ship HMAS *Deloraine* sailed from Brisbane for Sydney with *Shepparton* in tow. On 7 November the ships arrived at Sydney, where *Shepparton* remained in Reserve.

On 20 February 1958 the ship was sold for scrap to Mitsubishi Shoji Kaisha Ltd of Tokyo. Left Sydney June 1958 for Yokohama under tow of tug *Skitako Maru*, broken up in Japan.



A sailor, officer and senior sailor on Shepparton.



Shepparton laid up in Sydney.

H.M.A.S. SHEPPARTON