

HMAS Strahan – J363



Namesake: Town of Strahan,
Tas
Builder: NSW State
Dockyard
Laid down: 9 October 1942
Launched: 12 July 1943
Commissioned: 14 March 1944
Decommissioned: 25 January 1946
Motto: "With Fair Winds"

Battle honours:
Pacific 1944–45
New Guinea 1944

Fate: Sold for scrap in
1961



Displacement: 815 tons
Length: 186 ft 2 in
(56.74 m)
Beam: 31 ft (9.4 m)
Draught: 8.5 ft (2.6 m)
Propulsion: triple expansion
engine, 2 shafts,
2,000 hp

Speed: 15.5 knots
(28.7 km/h; 17.8 mph)

Complement: 85
Armament: 1 × 4-inch gun
2 × 20 mm

Oerlikons
1 × 40 mm Bofors
Machine guns
Depth charges
chutes and

throwers

Strahan was laid down at the State Dockyard, Newcastle 19 Oct 1942. Launched 12 July 1943 by Mrs Cahill, wife of the NSW Minister for Public Works and Local Government.



HMAS Strahan being launched in Newcastle.

STATE DOCKYARD, NEWCASTLE, NSW. 1943-07-21. MEMBERS OF OFFICIAL PARTY AT SIMULTANEOUS LAUNCHING OF CORVETTE HMAS STRAHAN, THE FIRST NAVAL VESSEL BUILT BY THE DOCKYARD, AND AN AUXILIARY CARGO VESSEL FOR THE US ARMY. L TO R: UNIDENTIFIED; MRS J. J. CAHILL, WIFE OF THE NSW MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS AND LAUNCHING LADY OF THE CORVETTE; UNIDENTIFIED; MRS NELSON T. JOHNSON, WIFE OF US MINISTER TO AUSTRALIA AND LAUNCHING LADY OF THE CARGO VESSEL; ENGINEER REAR ADMIRAL P. E. MCNEIL, CB RAN, DIRECTOR, SHIPBUILDING BOARD; MR W. MCKELL, PREMIER OF NSW.



A stern view of Strahan, 1944.

Strahan commissioned at Newcastle on 14 March 1944 under the command of Lieutenant Commander Leonard D Williams RANR.

Following a period of trials, *Strahan* proceeded in May 1944 to the New Guinea area where she was employed on escort and anti-submarine patrol duties.



Strahan conducted escort and anti-submarine patrol duties in New Guinea after commissioning.

In October 1944, while in harbour at Morotai, enemy planes bombed the harbour and adjacent targets. *Strahan* engaged and drove off with main armament and automatic weapons one fighter bomber which attacked her.

Strahan returned to Sydney in April 1945 and then proceeded to Adelaide in May for a refit. On completion she returned to the New Guinea area and resumed escort and patrol duties in the Morotai and Biak areas. In June 1945 *Strahan* went into action against Japanese land forces for the first time when she bombarded gun emplacements on Kairiru Island.

She then performed escort duties to Tarakan in Borneo and back to Morotai. On the way from Tarakan in August 1945 she sank a Japanese barge and picked up three survivors of a crew of ten.

Following the cessation of hostilities, *Strahan* proceeded to Hong Kong where she was engaged in minesweeping and anti -piracy patrols as a unit of the 21st Minesweeping Flotilla.



Strahan conducted post-war minesweeping duties.

While on anti-piracy patrol on 26 September a violent explosion occurred under the ship approximately under the Wardroom Flat. 7 Crew members were slightly injured. Engines and steering not in fit condition to Proceed. Requested a tow from HMAS Wagga and proceeded to Hong Kong. Wagga relieved of tow by HMRT Integrity. On arrival Hong Kong made fast alongside HMS Resource.

Border Morning Mail (Albury, NSW) Fri 28 Sep 1945:

HMAS *Strahan* Strikes Mine, HONG KONG. Thursday.

The Australian naval vessel *Strahan*, exploded a mine off Stanley Point yesterday. Some officers and men who were on deck, were injured but details of casualties are not yet available. The *Strahan* returned to port under its own steam.

The Herald (Melbourne) Mon 5 Nov 1945:

Corvette Hits Mine, Survives

SYDNEY. — With her stern plates buckled by a mine to a depth of 5 inches, but still water tight, the Australian corvette HMAS *Strahan* has returned to Sydney — a tribute to Australian shipbuilding. The mine, an American acoustic or magnetic type, dropped by American planes off Hong Kong early this year, exploded under the *Strahan* as she was setting out to clean up a reported nest of Chinese pirates. It contained 600 lb. of explosive. After repairs had been effected, with engine trials being held on 14th October, she sailed for Australia on 1 November and paid an official visit to her namesake town in Tasmania on 14 November 1945.



Presentation of captured Japanese flag to Strahan Municipal Council 19 November 1945

23 November 1945 arrived in Sydney and moored alongside HMAS Glenelg at no.4 buoy. From 23rd to 30th November de-storing of ship occurred.



VILLAGE POINT, WATSON'S BAY, SYDNEY, NSW. C.1948. RAN SHIPS IN RESERVE.

THERE ARE PRESENT THE CORVETTES HMAS KAPUNDA (PROBABLY THE MIDDLE VESSEL), STRAHAN AND COLAC, THE TUG HMAS SPRIGHTLY (FOURTH FROM LEFT), THE MOTOR STORES LIGHTER MSL251 AND THE GENERAL PURPOSE VESSEL GPV963 (THESE LAST TWO IDENTIFIABLE BY THEIR NUMBERS). ALSO PRESENT ARE THE MOTOR WATER LIGHTER MWL256, THE GENERAL PURPOSE VESSELS STERNA (GPV952) AND TRINGA (GPV951), GPV953, GPV960, AND HMA MOTOR LAUNCHES ML801, ML805, ML810, ML822 AND ML825.



Strahan shortly before her final disposal in 1961.

Strahan paid off into F Class Reserve at Sydney on 25 January 1946, bringing her seagoing career to a close. During her service she had steamed almost 60,000 miles.

On 6 January 1961, without being again commissioned, she was sold to Kinoshita (Australia) Pty Ltd. Broken up at Green Point, in Sydney.