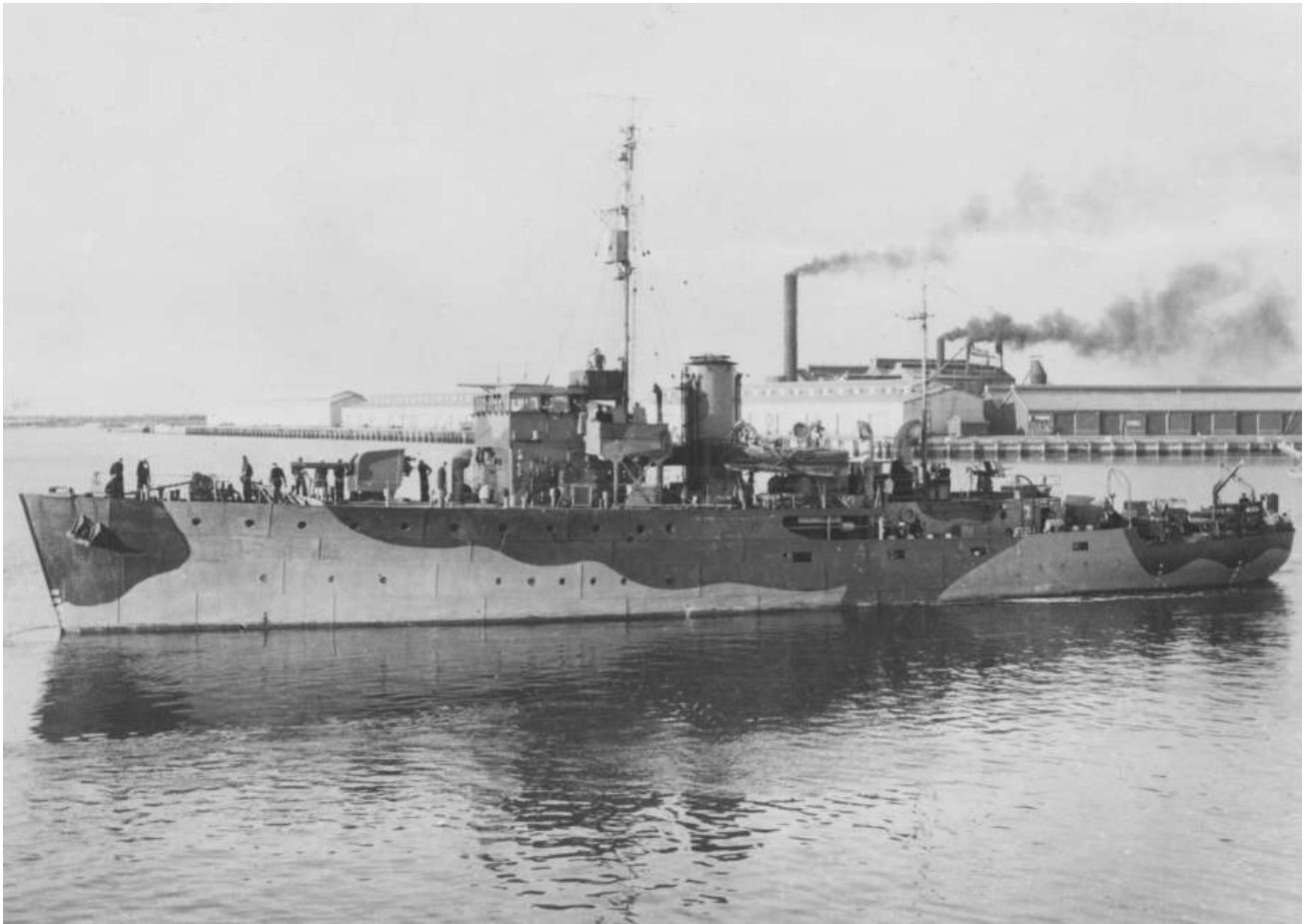


HMAS Wallaroo – J222



Namesake: Town of Wallaroo, SA
 Builder: Poole & Steel, Sydney
 Laid down: 24 April 1941
 Launched: 18 February 1942
 Commissioned: 15 July 1942
 Motto: "With Might And Main"

Battle honours: Pacific 1942

Fate:
 Lost following collision on 11 June 1943



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

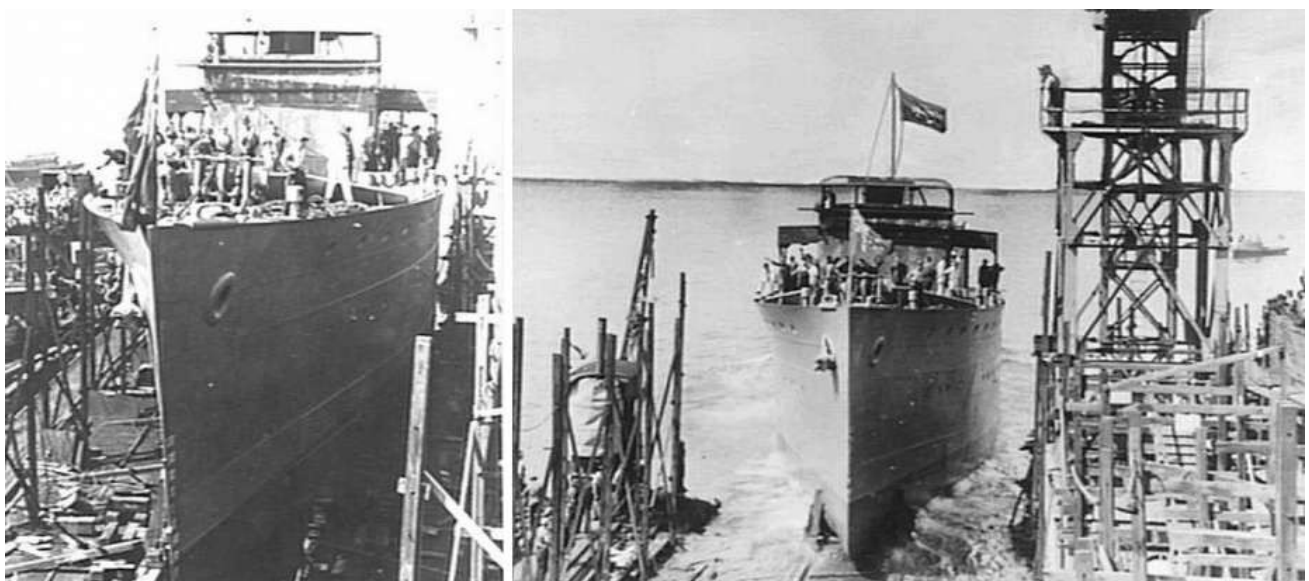
Complement: 85
 Armament: 1 × 4-inch gun
 3 × 20 mm

Oerlikons
 machine guns
 depth charge
 chutes and throwers

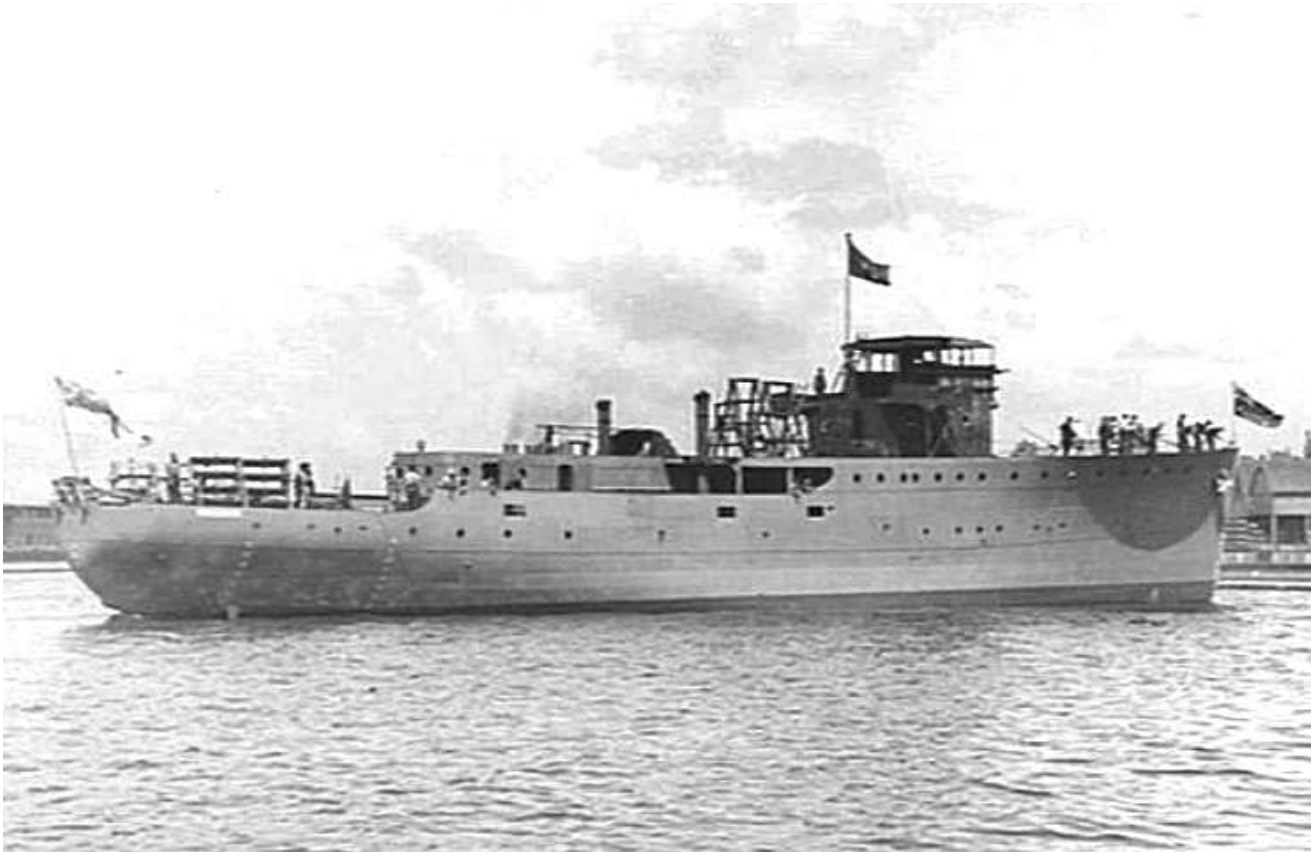
HMAS Wallaroo was laid down at the yard of Poole & Steel Ltd, Sydney on 24 April 1941. She was launched by Mrs Poole, wife of the Chairman of Directors of Poole & Steel Ltd, on 15 July 1942.



Group portrait of official group at HMAS *Wallaroo*'s launching. L-R: Mr A Poole, Rev Rix who conducted the religious ceremony, Mrs Poole, Junior, Mrs Poole, Senior, wife of the managing director of the dockyard, Commodore Muirhead-Gould and Mr A Poole, Senior. (AWM 011630).



Wallaroo was laid down and launched at the dockyard of Poole & Steel Ltd, Sydney.



After fitting out she commissioned at Sydney on 15 July 1942 under the command of Lieutenant Eric Sinclair Ross RANR(S).

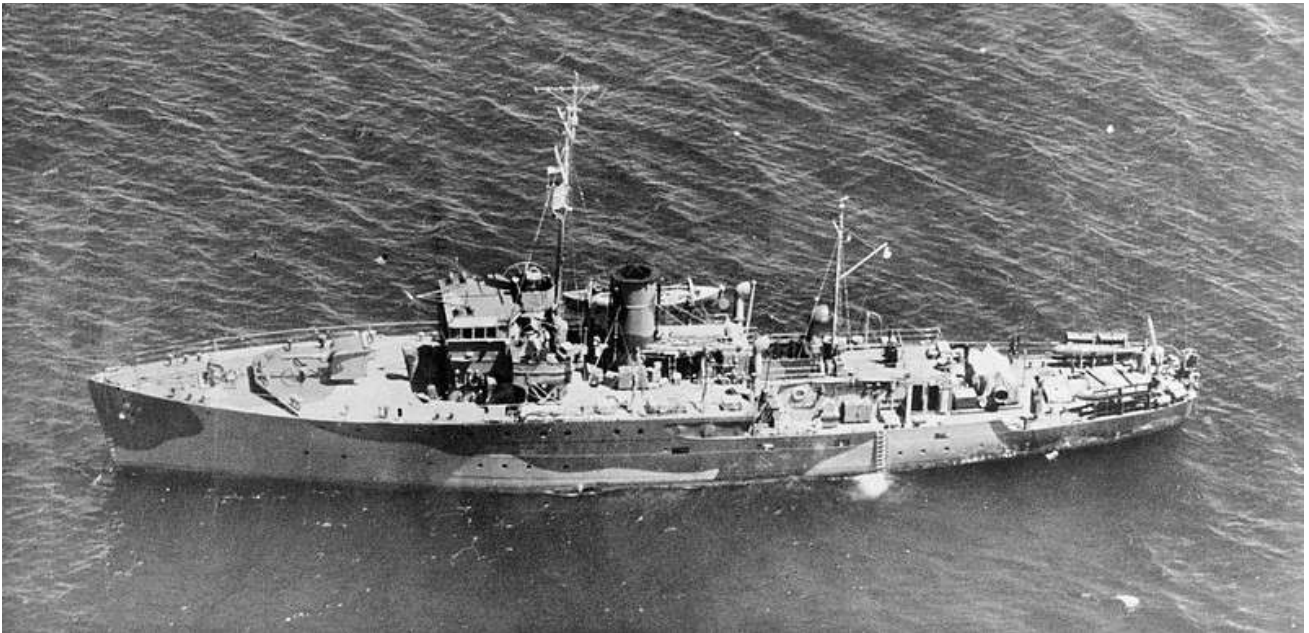


Wallaroo had a short and uneventful life. She commenced duty on anti-submarine patrols between Adelaide, Geraldton and Fremantle in September 1942. She was also employed on escort duties and minesweeping in the Fremantle area.



Wallaroo wearing her wartime disruptive pattern camouflage paint scheme.





The complement of most corvettes normally numbered between 75 and 90 personnel. Here members of *Wallaroo*'s crew can be seen posing prior to the ship's loss, in which three of her number were killed.



Wallaroo met her end in the early hours of 11 June 1943, when she sank as the result of a collision with the United States Liberty Ship *Henry Gilbert Costin*. The collision occurred shortly after midnight off the Western Australian coast, approximately west of Fremantle. The night was dark and overcast and in accordance with wartime precautions the vessels were steaming without navigation lights burning.



Liberty Ship Henry Gilbert Costin

The Canberra Times (ACT) Mon 21 Jun 1943

H.M.A.S. *Wallaroo* SUNK AFTER COLLISION AT SEA

PERTH, Saturday

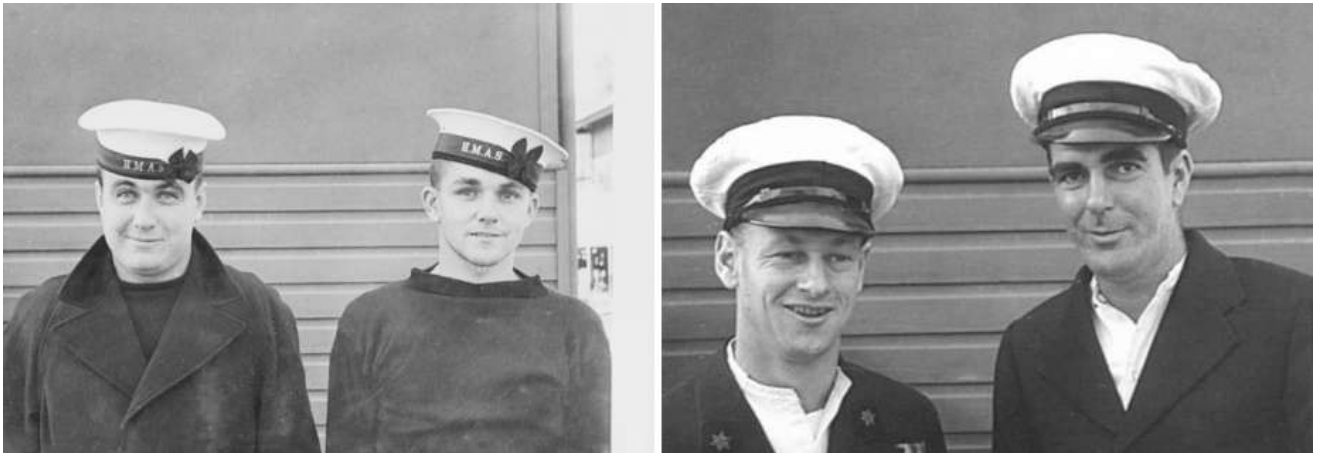
The Corvette HMAS *Wallaroo* was sunk in a collision with an allied freighter during darkness, off the Western Australian coast. Three members of the crew were lost and most of the remainder spent four hours in the sea before being picked up. The survivors fought all night to save their ship, and had abandoned it only 10 minutes before it sank.

Those lost were: Motor Mechanic George William Garrity of Casino (NSW.) and AE Davis Bernard Cowen, of Cygnet (Tas) both killed in the collision, AB Joseph John Clarke, of Port Melbourne missing and presumed drowned. The freighter suffered no casualties and only minor damage. The collision occurred at 1155pm and it was not until 0750 the next morning that the order was given to abandon ship. The captain, suffered serious injuries including a broken jaw, and had to be helped away. He was last to leave.

Some four hours after the collision, while endeavouring to reach Fremantle, *Wallaroo* sank. *Henry Gilbert Costin* reached port safely with no casualties and only minor damage.



Left: Survivors from Wallaroo following the collision with US Liberty Ship Henry Gilbert Costin. (AWM 014997). Right: Petty Officer Victor A Doyle, coxswain, who did excellent work in getting men away from the sinking Wallaroo.

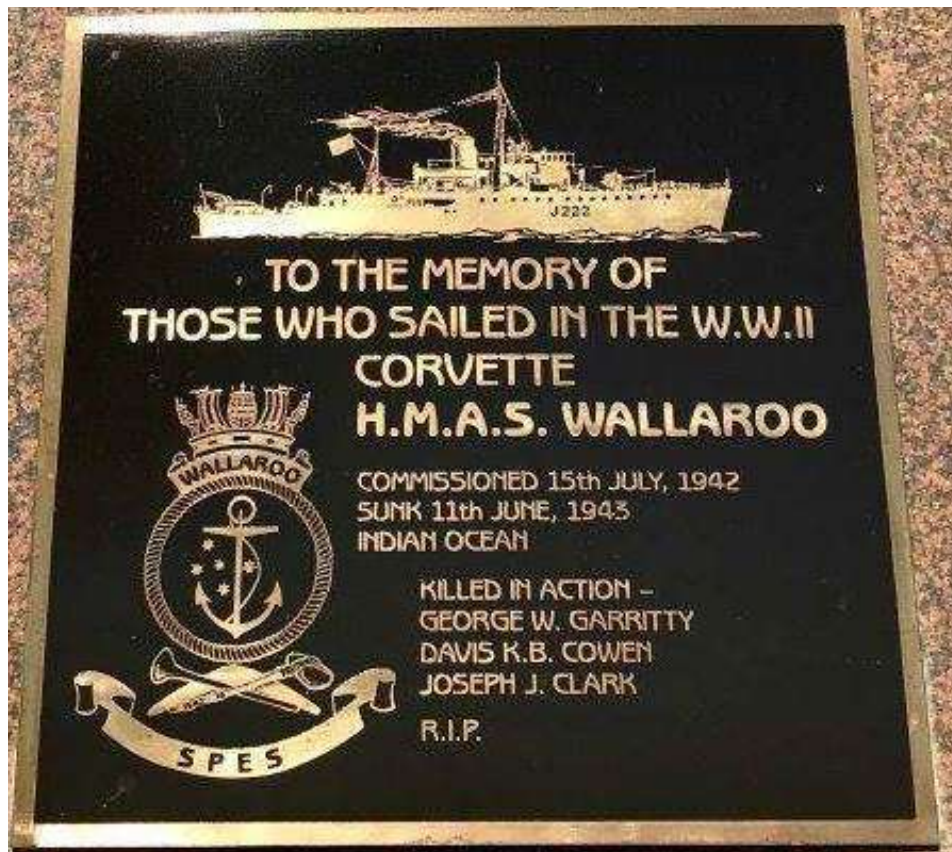


Left: Able Seaman KJ Crowther RAN and Ordinary Signaller HP Lowe RAN, who were on the bridge of *Wallaroo* when the collision occurred. Right: Petty Officers H Rodject RAN and AH Rowland got out emergency torches when *Wallaroo* collided.

The three ratings from *Wallaroo* who lost their lives are commemorated on the Plymouth Naval Memorial in Devon, England for those naval personnel who lost their lives and have no grave other than the sea.



Group portraits of interstate members of *Wallaroo* pictured after their return to Melbourne, Victoria, circa 1943.



H.M.A.S. WALLAROO