



MEDIA RELEASE

Australian War Memorial releases digitised Navy archival records online

To mark the 100th anniversary of the formation of the Royal Australian Navy this month, the Australian War Memorial is digitising one of its most used naval archival series, [AWM78 Reports of Proceedings, HMA Ships and Establishments](#).

The Royal Australian Navy's *Reports of Proceedings* are the official record of activities of commands, vessels, shore establishments, administrative authorities and installations from 1939 onwards.

From today Monday 11 July, the Memorial will be publishing online the records of the first 50 ships that we have digitised. Researchers around the world can start accessing this important collection directly from the Memorial's website www.awm.gov.au/collection/records/awm78/.

The Memorial will add further records to the website as each of the original paper records is digitised. This is a major project that will generate up to 300,000 images.

Senior curator and project manager, Robyn Van-Dyk, said this first release covers the activities of Royal Australian Navy from 1939 through to the 1980s.

"We started by digitising the most heavily used records such as those relating to [HMAS Sydney \(II\) and \(III\)](#), [HMAS Perth \(I\)](#), [HMAS Vendetta \(I\) and \(II\)](#), [HMAS Vampire \(I\) and \(II\)](#)

There are multiple files relating to each ship covering arrival and departures from ports, visits, official calls, operations, exercises, weather conditions and outstanding incidents.

"There is also a very brief summary of the performance of the ship's machinery and other systems. Some files also include photographs and newspaper articles. For shore establishments, the files cover promotion tests, mess activities, accounting, training, exercises and social events.

"These digitised records will be preserved in the Memorial's new Digital Asset Management System and publicly accessible via the Memorial's website in much the same way as the [Records of CEW Bean and the Unit War Diaries](#).

"These records are vital for any research into Australian Naval history, for family history as well as for veterans of the Navy to research their own service," she said.

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Check out our newest exhibition *Rats of Tobruk, 1941* <http://www.awm.gov.au/exhibitions/tobruk/>

11 July 2011