

1944
H.M.A.S. Hambleton

Aug 27 1944 to Aug 5 1945

1944

Aug 27-28-29-30 Madang - Gunnery & A/S exercise
Radar packed up.

Aug 31. Left Madang for Manus

Sep 1. 0223 saw flares etc. Turned out to be
Shoafire & Tank DP, in exercise.

arrived Seadale Harbour. - Ship & Plans galore

Sep 2 Seadale Harbour.

Sep 3-4 Gunnery & A/S exercise with sub. 845

Sep 5. Seadale Harbour.

Sep 6 0300 est sea - Towed stern sheet.

Sep 7 Visual exercise with sub.

Sep 8 Left Seadale with tanker "Esson Lornel"
for Fenschafen

Sep 9 Tanker broke down - Turned for Madang -
arrived 1500 - no mail. - Mail sent to
Hollandia

Sep 10 Madang - Commander D inspection.

Sep 11 Gunnery exercise - 1630 dropped Commander D -
Some mail - Proceeded to Fenschafen -
Arrived 1830

Sep 12 Departed atlexis with 200 traps for Marsa Bay
in company with "Kama" and "Goulburn"
Arrived Harbour. 1300 - Boat salvage, no gaps -
Departed 2000.

Sep 13-14 est sea

Sep 15 Arrived Madang 0450

Sep 16-22 Madang - Bailer clean - Concerts - Water Polo

- Sep 22 - Gunnery and A/S exercise
Damage to Radar etc. -
- Sep 23 Headed for repairs
- Sep 24 Left Oadlang 0130 for Fenschafen then toward
for O'Harus - Escorting sub! She was faster
than us so she did the zig zag.
- Sep 25 Arrived Seattle Harbour - Refueled from USS. Leaflets
Numerous ships "California" "Indiana" "New Jersey"
also "Ararat" and "Burdick"
- Sep 26 Underway at short notice at 1915 to assist
Liberty ship - 30 miles out, 13 miles south of
Los Negros - Reached ship at 2100 - USS. Don
O'Harus was rammed by USS. Mission Ridge -
USS. Don O'Harus cargo tractor, tanks and
200 troops was afloat - Burdick, 2 York D.E.s,
and us fought fire until fire fighter ship
arrived - Picked up some troops.
- Sep 27 Arrived O'Harus 0700
- Sep 28 Slipped at 0100 to pick up and escort sub
from 100 miles out - USS. Flounder - Picked up
more subs "Sea Wolf" and "Tempest"
- Sep 29 Arrived Seattle 0900
- Sep 30 Some mail - Our new cinema machine
is now working thanks to Hank
- Oct 1-2 Condenser trouble.
- Oct 3 Brought in another sub.
- Oct 4 Anchored at Bara Island. Seattle Harbour.
- Oct 5 A/S exercised with York sub.
- Oct 6 Stayed out chasing Jap sub - No luck

1944

- Oct 23 Picked up Bank sub going south of
O'banus at about 12 knots - short of
fuel
- Oct 24-26 At sea.
- Oct 27 Left sub for O'banus - arrived 2300
- Oct 28 Refueled from USS Jaguar. - Sailed for
Palau with Violon ship.
- Oct 29 At sea - Depth Charge attack on
suspected sub.
- Oct 30 At sea
- Oct 31 Arrived Palau 0500 - No harbors. -
Long reef - anchorage 4-5 mile off shore -
Arrived here - Left for O'banus 1500
- Nov 1-2 At sea
- Nov 3 Picked up sub - Escort till dark at
12 knots - Passed battle fleet returning
from Philippines - Lost sub & entered
battle fleet - Arrived O'banus 2230 -
Mail on board mid night.
- Nov 4 Started boiler clean.
- Nov 5-9 Boiler clean
- Nov 10 O'banus - Ammunition ship blew up about
1 mile from us - Severe damage to
adjacent ships - DE along side stern
- 300 dead - Refueled USS. Leopard.
- Nov 11 Left O'banus 0500 with USS. Kane and
transports "George Blyner" and "President Hayes"
for Marshall Islands - Speed 15 knots.
- Nov 12-15 At sea - Our engine broke down 15 times
- Kane & Hayes also had engine trouble
Passed within 10 miles of Jap held island.

- Nov 16 - Arrived Majusa - Engine repairs - Island
a coral atoll used as air strip - No
malaria here.
- Nov 17 Left Majusa for Banus - Speed 16 knots
- Nov 18 at sea
- Nov 19-20 Serious trouble with No. 1 Boiler but
No. 2 Boiler holding up.
- Nov 21 Arrived Rana Island 0600 - Strong
rumors about going South.
- Nov 22-30 Rana Island for repairs
- Dec 1 A/s exercise - Refuel.
- Dec 2 Banus
- Dec 3 Left Banus 1145 for Palau and then
Leyte - Speed 14 knots.
- Dec 4-5 at sea.
- Dec 6 Arrived Palau 1400 - Refuelled - Perkins on
board Casablanca.
- Dec 7 Sailed for Peldien with "Ararat"
- Dec 8 Arrived Peldien 1000 - Left for Russell
Island with convoy "Prince George" "Abridged"
"Kass" "Tularan" (Captured Jap ships, 4 masts.
Speed 6 knots increasing to 11 knots. "Tularan"
could not keep up
- Dec 9 at sea - "Ararat" is to go to Banus for oil
and take our mail, and collect mail
for us.
- Dec 10 at sea
- Dec 11 Mail closed at 1600 and given to "Ararat"
- Dec 12 "Ararat" left at 1700
- Dec 13 Expecting "Ararat" and mail back.
- Dec 14 "Ararat" joined us at 1500 - 26 bags of mail
to be taken to main line - Our mail sent.

to Russell Island.

Dec 15: At sea - Broke down 1 hour to effect repair

Dec 16 At sea.

Dec 17 Left convoy for Russell Island and reef
- Speed 17 knots - Arrived Russell Island
0930 - Stepped for Brisbane.

Dec 18-19 At sea

^{14 days}
_{at sea}
Dec 20 Arrived South Brisbane 0830 - Docked at
1130 - Victorian on leave.

Dec 21 N.S.W. men on leave

Dec 22-30. Dock repairs & boiler clean.

Dec 31 Moved to Newcastle wharf for refuel.

1945:

Jan 1 Sailed at 1200 with Lt. Mabin & Minister
for Navy for Northern Australian tour.

Jan 2 At sea - Fire "Kedgeboys" for practice
and fish - No fish.

Jan 3 Arrived Townsville 0900.

Jan 4 Sailed for Cairns - 13 knots.

Jan 5 Arrived Cairns 0800 - Sailed 1800 for
Thursday Island

Jan 6 At sea - Anchored at reef 1230 - 0500

Jan 7 Arrived Thursday Island 0930.

Jan 8 Sailed 0930 for Darwin.

Jan 9 At sea - Sub scare - dropped 8 depth charges.
6 star shell - Saw a patch where sub.
appeared to dive.

Jan 10 Arrived Darwin 1400

Jan 11 Along side Darwin boom jetties - Ships company
photographed with Lt. Mabin

Jan 12 Sailed at 0900 with tanker Empire Salvon
to go to Boob Island - in speed 13 knots

- Jan 13 At sea - 2 Becco planes at 0844 - 0900 flying very low.
- Jan 14 At sea.
- Jan 15 0200 Booby Island - Sailed for Ueilne Bay.
- Jan 16 Arrived Ueilne Bay 1500 - Refueled.
- Jan 17 Sailed 0430 for Saadung.
- Jan 18 Arrived Saadung 1215.
- Jan 19 Sailed for Hollandia 1230
- Jan 20 Arrived Hollandia (Homboldt Bay) 1130 - Refueled
- Jan 21-22-23 Hollandia
- Jan 24 Sailed for Leyte with US Navy supply ship Harry T Allen, and coast guard cutter USS Ingham (Radio Ship)
- Jan 25 At sea - at edge of hurricane that wrecked some ships further north.
- Jan 26-27 At sea
- Jan 28 Arrived Leyte 0800 - No army ships and landing craft - cruisers "Cleveland" and DD "Beards" arrived this afternoon - Refueled at 1800 - Township Tacloban.
- Jan 29 Sailed at mid night for sub patrol at 100 miles N and S outside Leyte.
- Jan 30 - Feb 3 - Sub patrol.
- Feb 4 Joined convoy of 61 ships with 6 DE escort headed for Leyte.
- Feb 5 At sea.
- Feb 6 Arrived Leyte 1700 - No mail - Raced U.S. DE for tanker - We won.
- Feb 7 Leyte
- Feb 8 Sailed with 4 STs and 1 DE for Hollandia Speed 8 knots

- Feb 9 At sea
- Feb 10 The 5th LST trying to catch up torpedoed this morning.
- Feb 11-12 At sea
- Feb 13 LSTs to go to Gaudalcanal - We go to Hollandia. - Stopped at sea for 20 minutes with water in fuel.
- Feb 14 Arrived Hollandia 0900
- Feb 15 16 17 Hollandia
- Feb 18 Sailed midday with slow convoy - Tugs, Barges and small floating dock. - Speed 5 knots. - USS Bronin 3 PC, and us for escort of about 60 ships.
- Feb 19-20-21-22-23-24-25-26-27-28 At sea - Time lost by towing 3 barges. - 1 had to be sunk by gun fire - No subs detected
- March 1 Towing 2000 ton tanker at 4 knots.
- March 2 At sea still towing tanker.
- March 3 Arrived San Pedro - Leyte.
- March 4 San Pedro
- March 5 Day spent refueling, storing etc from HMAS "Gusman" - "Burdick" & "Gascogne" also here.
- March 6 Sailed 1800 with USS Pocumuck and USS Bronin for Palawan, Puerto Princesa. Speed 14 knots
- March 7 At sea - good sub contact about 1400 - Detch charge attach.
- March 8 Arrived Puerto Princesa 0700 - Fighting still in hills - Visible gunfire - Town in ruin from bombing

March 9 Puerto Princesa -

March 10 Sailed 1000 for Leyte with USS Cronin
Speed 17 knots - arrived San Pedro.

March 11 Commenced boiler clean

March 12-14 Boiler clean.

March 15 Swimming carnival with USS Cronin

March 16 Boiler Clean

March 17 Alongside "MacLusa" Bofor guns fitted to
B & X gun shelters - Hobart and "Warramunga"
came in today

March 18 2 more bofors fitted to quarter deck.

March 19 Still alongside "MacLusa"

March 20 Sailed for Cebu 1600 - Convoy of 4
large tankers and troop assault ship

April 1 "Admiral W.P. Capps" - Speed 12 knots -
Convoy escort USS Rely and us.

March 21-25 At sea

March 26 Arrived Cebu - Destroyers "Bairns"
"Glenelg" "Maryborough" "Harwich" "Wollongong"
are here

March 27 Seaside Harbour

March 28-29 Alongside HMS Resource - Repairs and
more work on bofors - "HMS Formidable"
"HMS Uganda" (cruiser and destroyer) "HMS Ursa"
and "HMS Broken" came in today

March 30 Seaside Harbour.

March 31 Sailed with USS Rely for Palau
Speed 17 knots.

April 1 Hot roast dinner - First fresh meat
& vegs for long time.

April 2 At sea.

1945

- April 3 Arrived Palau 0700 - Sailed 1700
with USS Riley and USS Johnson escorting
the large stores ship "USS Flying Arrow"
and "USS Quebec" for Leyte.
- April 4 At sea
- April 5 Arrive Leyte - Mail.
- April 6 "HMS Formidable" "HMS Indomitable" and other
H.M. ship here
- April 7 Left Leyte for Hollandia with USS Iowa
with small convoy.
- April 8-12 At sea - Mine sunk with
gun fire.
- April 13 At sea - President Roosevelt's Death
announced.
- April 14 Arrived Hollandia - Mail -
- April 15 Hollandia - Burdekin arrived
- April 16 Hollandia - Barcoo arrived - Painted
ship in one day, all hands - 1st Lieutenant
and draft to HMMS Bataan - New
1st Lieutenant on board.
- April 17 Sailed for Boes Woendi with
Barcoo and Burdekin - Speed 17 knots -
gunnery exercise.
- April 18 Arrived Boes Woendi - HMMS Platypus
and corvettes here - Sailed to locate
SOS signal believed to two hundred
miles away.
- April 19 Still searching - No SOS signals now.
- April 20 Still searching.
- April 21 Arrive at Oratai 0500 - "Ganooa"
"Westralia" "Ararat" "Pockhampton"
"Burdekin" and Hospital ship "Banaka"

1945

are here - Sir Guy Royal came aboard for the night - RAAF. 7th and 9th Division all here.

April 22, Sir Guy Royal and Admiral Royal (US Navy) on board - These 2 and General Macbride had conference on board U.S.S. Rocky Mount here today

April 23 Assault ships "Manoora" "Australia" etc exercised today in preparation for Borneo invasion. - Lt. Devor "Derrick" VC, saved 2 blokes who fell over board from a barge in full hit - US, "Burdok" and "Barcoo" attached to 22nd Destroyer Flotilla under command U.S.S. Walker and under control of Admiral Royle on U.S.S. Rocky Mount. All is the 78 Task Force (TF 78)

April 24-26 Borotai - Extra radio gear.

April 27 Sailed 1200 with "Rocky Mount" "Australia" "Manoora" "Leticia" "LSD," "30 LST," "15 LCI," with 7th & 9th Divisions A.I. 80 ships in convoy - Escorts "Waller" "Smith" "Philep" "Drayton" "Baldwell" "Barcroft" "Bailey" "Larnet" "Brenner" "Barcoo" "Burdok" and US.

April 28 At sea headed for Sarakan - Fighter escort.

April 29 Seaman transferred to "Barcoo" for appendix operation.

April 30 At sea.

- May 1 0430 Assault formation formed for landing - Wo & Waller in first - Raining - Fuel tank ashore on fire - We take up torpedo boat & mine sub protection - 12 Liberators bombed invasion points - 0800 - Rocket firing LCIs advanced on beaches - 0915 troops ashore.
- May 2 Tanker arrived and all line up for refuel. - 2 mine sweepers sunk.
- May 3 Patrolling up & down harbour - Reports of hard fighting for air strip.
- May 4 Some A.I.F. aboard today - They say Sarakan guarded by Imperial Jap Marines
- May 5 Pounded some pill boxes at entrance of harbour with our 4.4" - Set alight to fuel dump - Striped beaches and adjacent jungle with bofors.
- May 6 "Westralia" and "Munoorah" returned with reinforcements and stores - also mail. Patrolling out side harbour.
- May 7 Sailed for Polluk in "Bandana" escorting fleet tanker "Wanooski" - Speed 16 1/2 knots
- May 8 Arrived Polluk Harbour in "Bora" full 1400 - End of European War announced today - 2 tins of beer issued, free -
- May 9 Sail for Leyte 1500
- May 10 Arrived Leyte near Samar (40 miles from Tacloban) at 11 N. - Store ship arrived 1730 - no mail -
- May 11-12+13 Leyte.

- May 14 Sailed with "Menoski" and "Chapstate"
 at 0300 for Zamboanga - Capital
 of Mindoro
- May 15 Arrived Zamboanga 1000. - Sailed
 with "Menoski" for Tarsakan 1100.
- May 16 Arrived Tarsakan 1200 -
- May 17 Sailed for Leyte - Speed 17 knots
- May 18 At sea
- May 19 Arrive Baluena Island near Samar Island
 40 miles from Leyte - Picked up stores -
 Sailed 1200 for San Pedro Bay - arrive
 1730 - Mail after six weeks
- May 20 - 27 Leyte Boiler clean
- May 28 Sailed to Baluena Island for stores
- May 29 Gunnery exercise - Return to Tacloban
 for refuel from USS. Siler Stand
- May 30 Leyte,
- May 31 USS. Sullivan and 15 D.D. arrived
 today
- June 1 Dark battle fleet ships arriving from
 Okinawa area for repair.
- June 2-3 Leyte.
- June 4 Sailed to Samar Island - Picked up
 convoy - 1 tug towing 3 barges - We are
 known as O.T.U. 79-1-23 under orders
 from O.T.U. 70-1 for Obae to Troop of
 9th Division to land at Bruncei Bay
- June 5 Sailed at 5 knots convoy
- June 6 At sea - ahead of time - Convoy
 slowed to 3 knots.

1945

June 7 at sea - Typhoons reported north of us.

June 8-13 at sea.

June 14 Arrive Brunei Bay 0600 - Refueled from USS. Cleveland (Brunei) - "Baroco" and "Larklan" here. - Sailed 1600 with "Baroco" US DUS convoy 10 LST, and 9 ~~LCIs~~ LCIs and US coast guard ship "Spencer"

June 15 at sea in Sulu Sea.

June 16 at sea - Passed "Hobart" "Arunta" and "Shepherd" on way to Brunei.

June 17 at sea - Passed the Celebes.

June 18 at sea - Passed Sangau Island and Lambanga.

June 19 at sea - Passed Halmahera Islands, Jap held.

June 20 Arrived Borotai.

June 21-22 Borotai

June 23 Sailed 0600 for Brunei - Convoy of Liberty ships - Escort us, "Baroco" and "USS Delphin" - Learned from Baroco our bombardment ~~had~~ at Tazahan had wiped out Jap B-29.

June 24-25 at sea

June 26 at sea in South China Sea.

June 27 Arrived Brunei 0900 -

June 28-29-30 Brunei

July 1 On patrol at Harbour entrance

July 2 Sailed 1100 for Borotai with "USS Bancroft" "USS Caldwell" "USS Shields" "USS Baroco" - Convoy 10 LST, large tug towing mine damaged destroyer

1945

- July 3 at sea
- July 4 at sea - US DDs leave for Leyte
- July 5-6 at sea
- July 7 arrive Morotai
- July 8-13 Morotai - Captain on draft. - New
Captain Lieut. Comdr. Perm.
- July 14 0530 3 army officers & 3 men from Allied
Intelligence aboard. Sailed to Katherini
on New Island about 100 miles - To investigate
presence of Japs and establish navigation
lights - Arrived New Island 1400 - Party
ashore - No Japs
- July 15 Sailed for Island Kajian - Arrived 1400 -
Flew Dutch flag for natives benefit
- July 16 Sailed for island Fawerlonge Island
near Guam Island. - Party ashore -
Sailed at 1600 for Gobe Island
- July 17 Sailed 0500 - anchor off native village
- July 18 Sailed for Morotai -
- July 19 around Morotai
- July 20 Sailed 1900 for Katherini Island with
"Barcoo" and "hope Leeuwin" - Speed
9 knots
- July 21-22 Arrived 1200 - hope Leeuwin will erect
navigation light here. - "Barcoo" to go
on a bombing mission. - No Japs
in sight at former wireless station - RAAF
bomb it a few days ago - He had 6
Beaufighters in support. - Bombed position.
- July 23 Barcoo and hope Leeuwin arrive to work
on light on Boobear Island - gave all
excess stores & ammo to Barcoo

July 24 Helped Cape Leeuwin.

July 25 - 27 Booby Island

July 28 Sailed 1900 with "Cape Leeuwin" for Thursday Island

July 29 - 30 at sea - First convoy to come this way south of Ceram Island. - Arrived Booby Island 1600.

Aug 1 Left "Cape Leeuwin" to go to Townsville.

Aug 2 at sea

Aug 3 Arrived Townsville 1200 - Refuelled - Sailed 1600 for Sydney.

Aug 4 at sea

Aug 5 Arrived Sydney 0700 - Speed 18.20 knots.