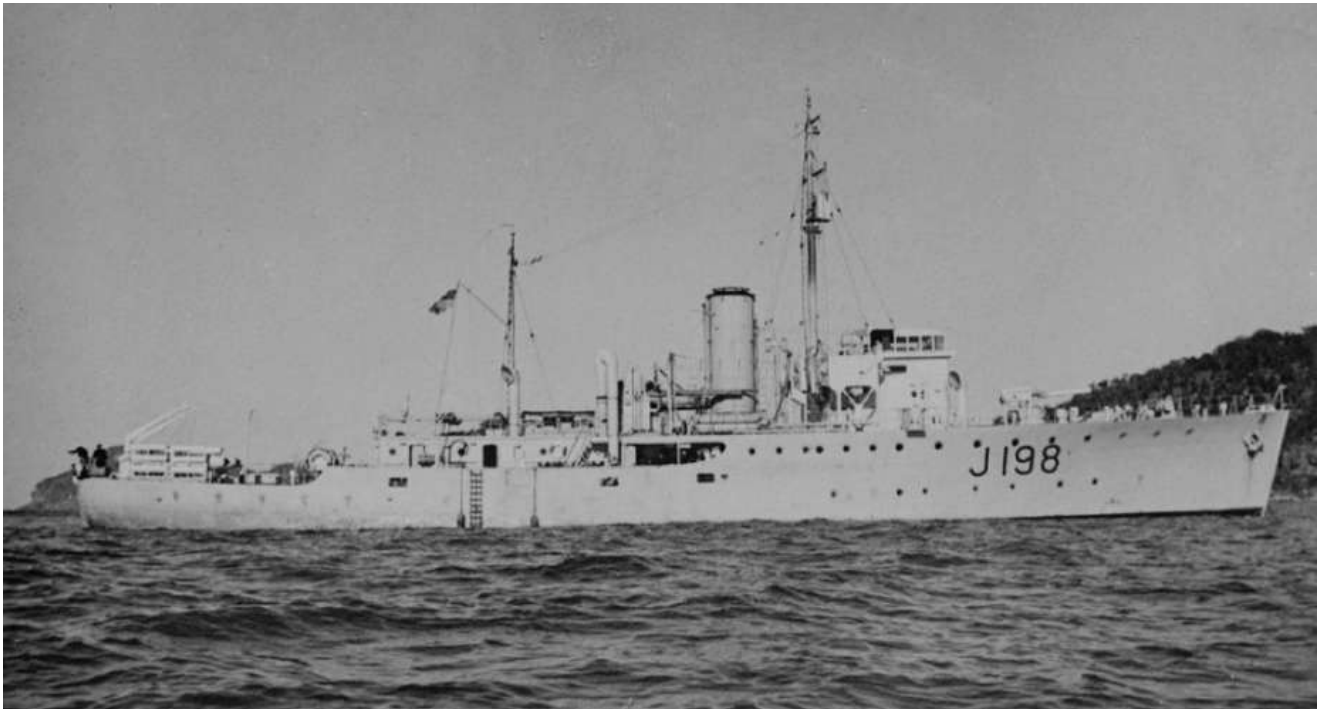


HMAS *Burnie* – J198/B238/A112



Namesake: City of Burnie,
Tasmania
Builder: Mort's Dock
Laid down: 4 June 1940
Launched: 25 October 1940

Commissioned: 15 April 1941
Decommissioned: 5 July 1946

Battle honours:
Pacific 1942–45
Indian Ocean 1942–44
Okinawa 1945

Fate: Transferred to RNN

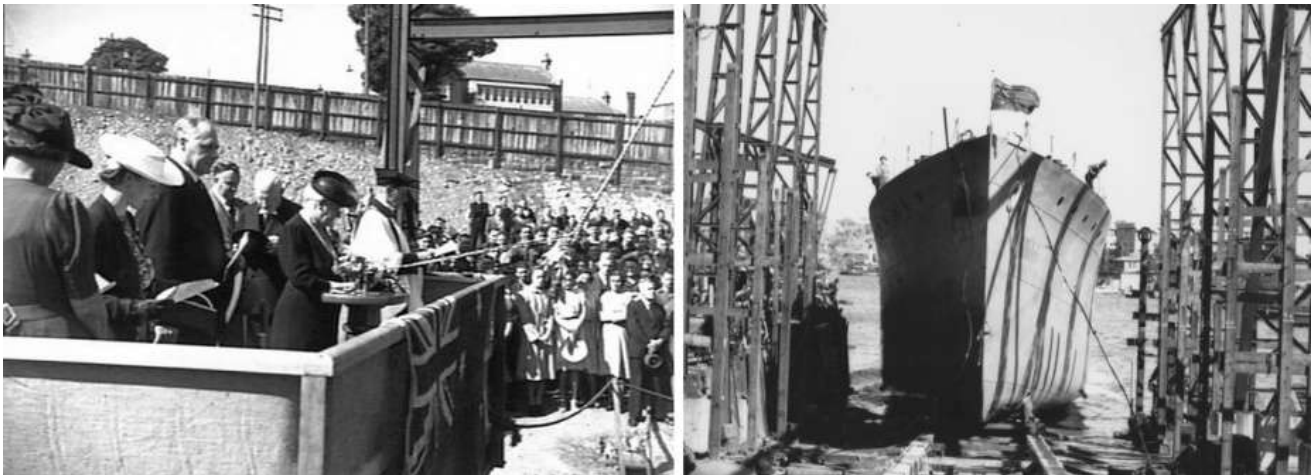
Class & type: Bathurst-class corvette
Displacement: 650 tons (standard),
1,025 tons (full war load)
Length: 186 ft (57 m)
Beam: 31 ft (9.4 m)
Draught: 8.5 ft (2.6 m)
Propulsion: Triple expansion,
2 shafts. 2,000 hp
Speed: 15 knots
(28 km/h; 17 mph) at 1,750
hp
Complement: 85
Armament: 1 × 4 inch gun,
Depth charge chutes
and throwers



Ordered for the British Admiralty and commissioned by RAN, HMAS *Burnie* was laid down at Morts Dock Engineering Company, Balmain, Sydney, NSW on 4 June 1940. She was launched on 25 October 1940 by Lady King, wife of the Chairman of Directors, Mort's Dock and Engineering Co and was the first RAN warship to carry the name of the port city on the north west coast of Tasmania. By the war's end Mort's Dock had constructed fourteen of the sixty Bathurst Class corvettes.



Lady King, the wife of the Chairman of Directors, Mort's Dock Engineering Co Ltd, christens HMAS Burnie prior to her launching.



Left: The official party at the launching of Burnie at Mort's Dock, Balmain, NSW on 25 October 1940. Right: HMAS Burnie takes to the water for the first time.



Burnie after launch

HMAS *Burnie* commissioned at Sydney on 15 April 1941 under the command Lieutenant George Edward Gough RANR(S).



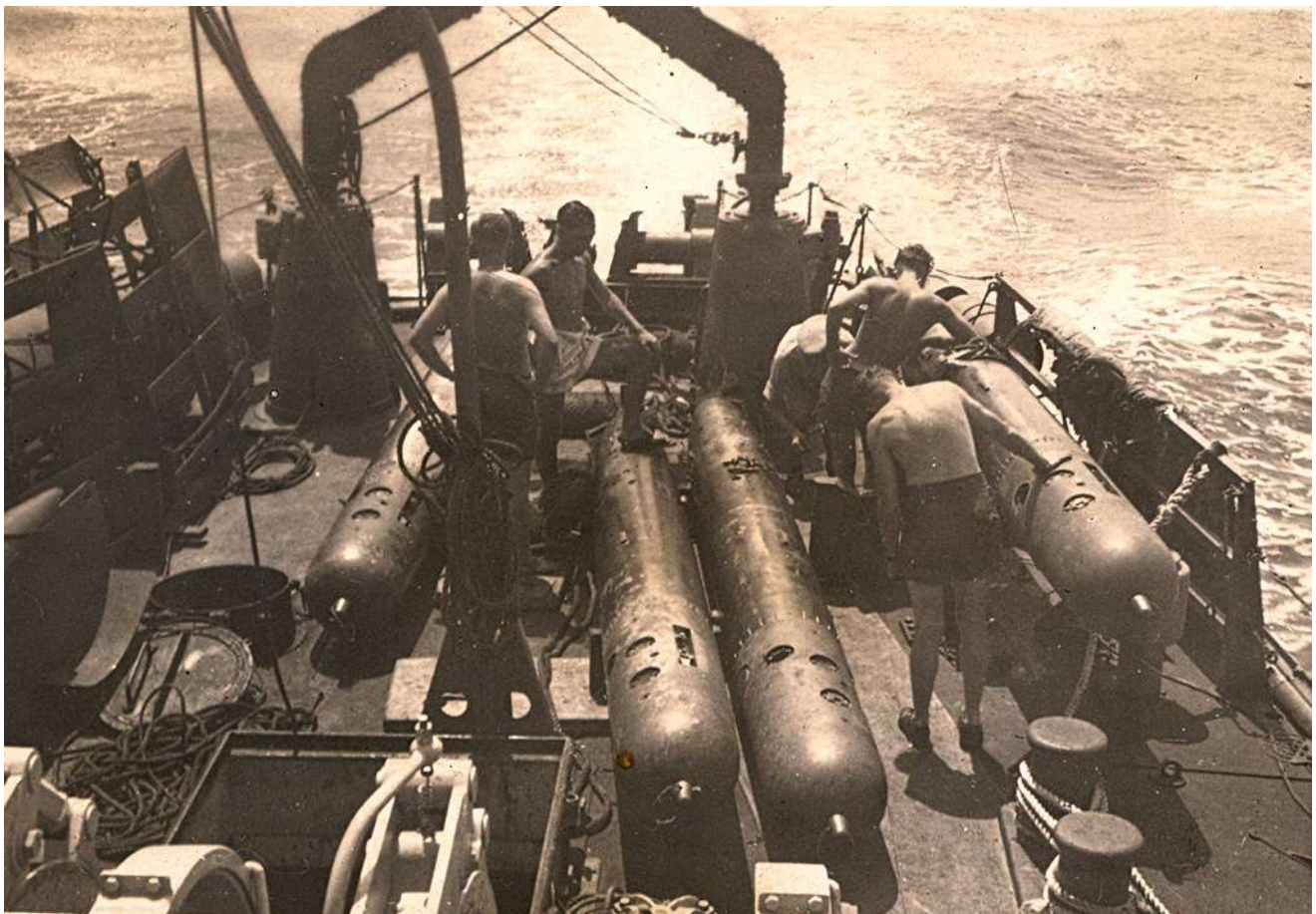
A signed photograph of HMAS Burnie that was presented to the Municipality of Burnie by the Commonwealth Government.

HMAS *Burnie* initially served with the 20th Minesweeping Flotilla, joining the Flotilla off Cape Otway on 10 May 1941. She was then based temporarily at Fremantle for escort and patrol duties. In company with HMAS *Goulburn* she left Sydney for Singapore in June 1941 via Brisbane, Townsville, Cooktown, Thursday Island and Darwin, arriving in Singapore on 12 July 1941.

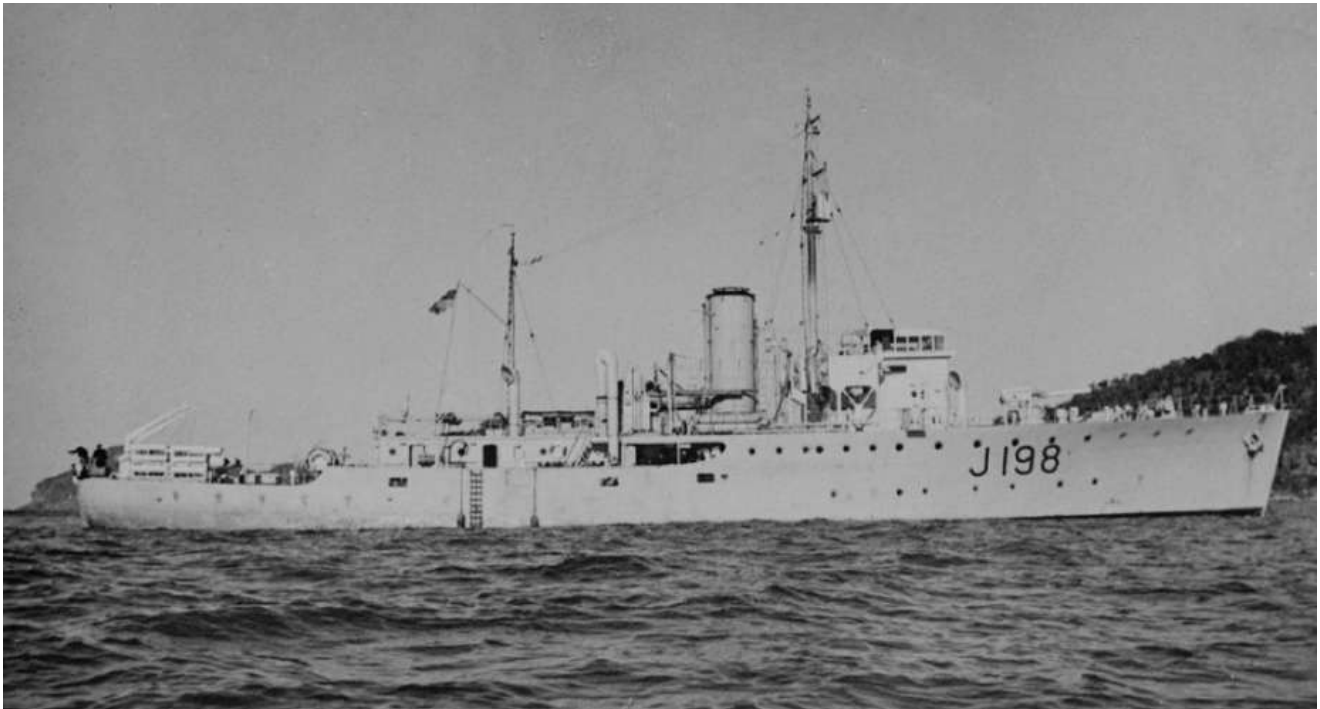
When Japan attacked Pearl Harbor in December 1941 *Burnie* was in Malayan waters. Thereafter, in company with other Australian corvettes, she helped to oppose the Japanese advance through the Netherlands East Indies. She was engaged in demolition work during this period, blowing up wharves, destroying oil and rubber stocks and military supplies, duties made extremely difficult by the constant Japanese air raids. During this period *Burnie*, for a time, wore the broad pennant of Commodore JA Collins RAN, then Commodore Commanding the China Force.



View from the bridge of HMAS Burnie, berthed alongside the Oosthaven port facilities which were destroyed to deny their use by the Japanese.



Salvaged Torpedoes on Burnie's after deck



HMAS Burnie. (Allan C Green, State Library of Victoria)

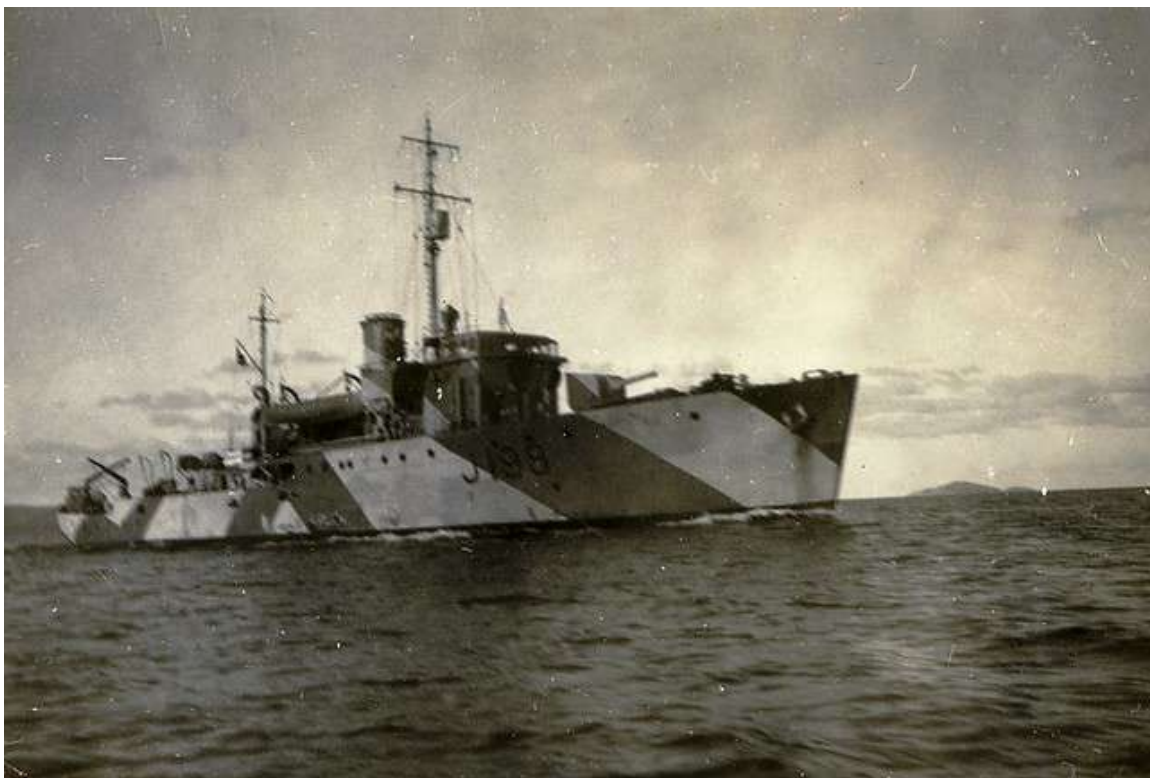


March 1942. Indian Ocean. Commodore John Augustine Collins, RAN, Commodore Commanding China Force (CCCF) (right, with binoculars) and Captain Lionel H Bell, RN, (left) former Captain of the Fleet to Force Z and now acting as Chief Staff Officer to Collins.

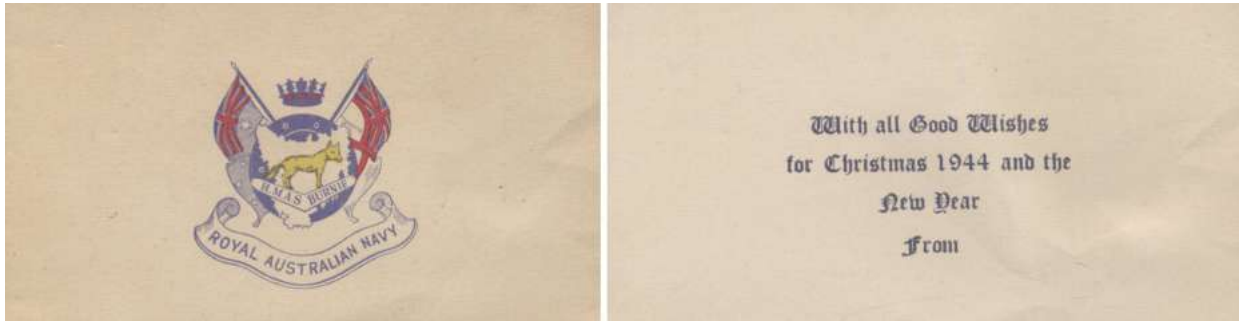
In September 1942 *Burnie* joined the Eastern Fleet and was engaged in anti-submarine patrols and escorting convoys to and from Bombay, Aden and Colombo.



From left: HMA Ships Toowoomba, Lismore, Burnie and Maryborough nested at Ceylon, Colombo in November 1944.



HMAS Burnie



HMAS Burnie's Christmas card from 1944.

In December 1944 *Burnie* and other Australian corvettes serving with the Eastern Fleet returned to Australia where they were formed into a Minesweeping Flotilla and attached to the British Pacific Fleet. In this capacity *Burnie* carried out anti-submarine duties and escorted convoys in the New Guinea, the Admiralties and the Philippines. In August 1945 *Burnie* proceeded to Hong Kong where she was engaged in minesweeping operations. In November she was sweeping in Formosa Strait, Amoy, Morotai, Darwin and Fremantle.



HMAS Burnie entering her namesake port in December 1945 wearing her British Pacific Fleet pennant number, B238.

In December 1945 *Burnie* paid an official visit to her namesake town in Tasmania where the ship's company was entertained by the citizens. In January 1946 she returned to Port Phillip Bay and gave some of the children from the Mallee the pleasure of having a trip on a real warship.



Kenneth Hopper

The Argus (Melbourne) Fri 11 Jan 1946:

SHIPBOARD CHRISTENING

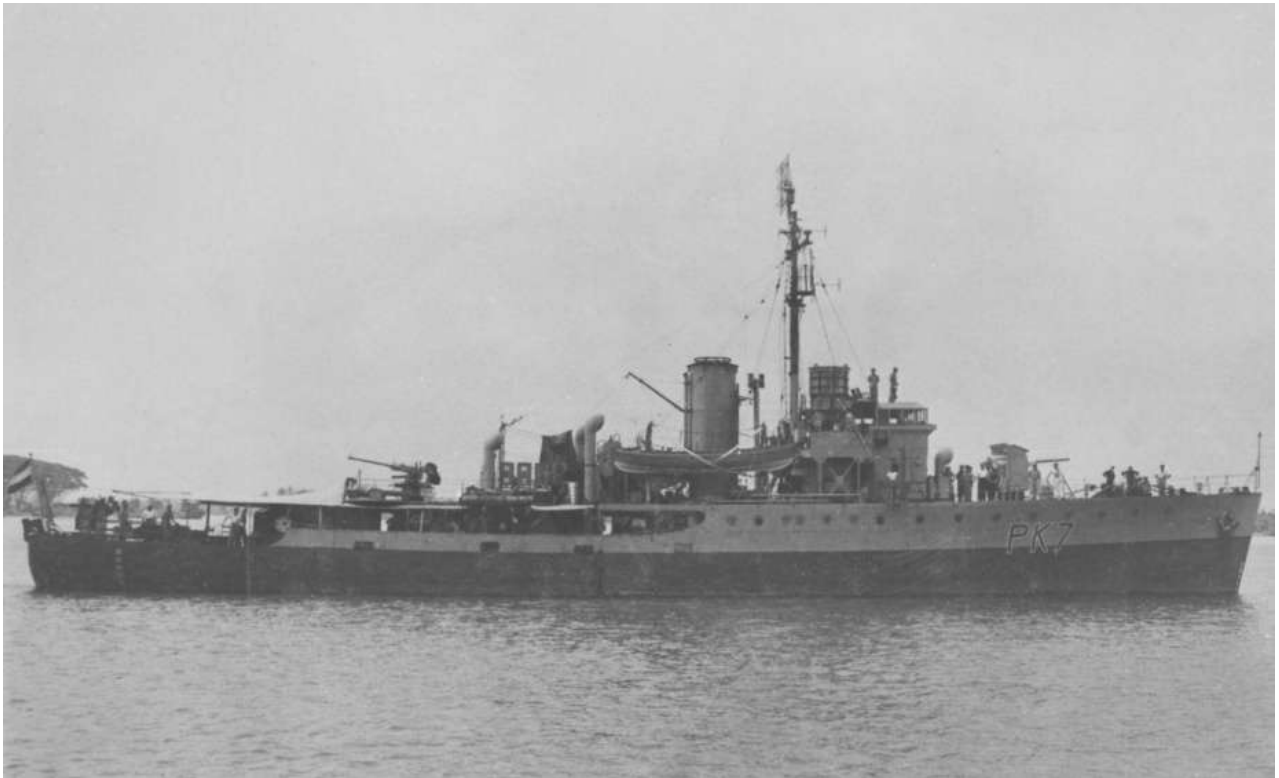
An interesting ceremony will take place aboard the corvette HMAS *Burnie* in Sydney Harbour on Sunday, when Roslyn, younger daughter of the commanding officer Lieut, K. J. Hopper, is christened. The ship's bell will be used as a font.

On 4 June 1946 *Burnie*, in company with her sister ships HMA Ships *Ipswich* and *Toowoomba*, departed Brisbane for Ceylon where they were to be handed over to the Royal Netherlands Navy. During her RAN commission *Burnie* had steamed over 160,000 miles. HMAS *Burnie* was retired from RAN services in Trincomalee on 5 July, 1946



Burnie joined the Dutch navy as HR.Ms. *Burnie*. Together with Hr.Ms. *Toowoomba* and Hr.Ms. *Ipswich* the corvette the next day left via Sabang to Tandjong Priok where the ship was named Hr.Ms. *Ceram*. Just like her sister ships, *Ceram* fought the Indonesian nationalists till end 1949.

In 1950 the corvette arrived in the Netherlands where it was deployed as ship on guard duty, fishery inspection vessel, patrol boat and as tracking ship of the Dutch aircraft carrier Hr.Ms. *Karel Doorman*. In Dutch Service the ship carried the Pennant numbers **B238, MV27, PK7, P12, M815, F815, A872**. *Ceram* was sold to be scrapped in 1958.



HMNLS Ceram



HNLMS Ceram