

25

H.M.A.S. "MELBOURNE"

at Sea

22nd November 1920.

I

Sir, I have the honour to submit the following weekly report for week ending Saturday, 20th November 1920.

No flying has been carried out; due to the fact that of machine being placed out of commission.

2. Considerable difficulty is now being experienced owing to the unsuitable place provided for the stowage of petrol, i.e. Port side of after superstructure. In this position it is exposed to the weather and consequently the tins have rapidly deteriorated. Although a covering of tarpaulin has been rigged, as much as 2 or 3 inches of water accumulates after a heavy shower and this causes the tins to rust and quickly become holed.

To minimise the loss of petrol as far as possible, the tins have been removed from their cases, painted, greased, and re-stowed on top of the empty cases, but the rubbing and bumping together of the tins caused by the vibration of the ship wears off the paint and the rusting continues.

It is submitted that arrangements be made for petrol to be stowed in a locker providing suitable protection from the weather.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant.

The Commanding Officer
H.M.A.S. "MELBOURNE"

K. Innes-Smith
Captain. A.A.C.

The Commodore Commanding
H.M.A.A. FLEET.

Submitted. This is so. On petrol tins being shipped orders were given to paint them. This has been done and is the only way to prevent their tins from rusting. But even so they do not stand the sea air well & continuous exposure to the atmosphere & develop pin holes. A design for a petrol tank is being prepared for future stowage.

Note (para I.)

Place provided is the only suitable place but deterioration of tins would take place anywhere unless ship. hence need for tank.



1921/032

CONFIDENTIAL RECORDS

NAVY OFFICE
MELBOURNE.
DEC 22 1920
CONFIDENTIAL
RECORDS

FLYING REPORT - STOWAGE OF PETROL.

III

1369/A.F.1250.
The Secretary,
Navy Office,
MELBOURNE.



Forwarded for the information of the Naval Board in continuation of my 1301/A.F.1250, dated 26 November

2. I beg to submit that a tank is necessary and that each ship requires one. If approved a sketch will be forwarded.

J. J. J. J.

Checked for Indexing

DEC 22 1920

H.M.A.S. "MELBOURNE".
DEC 1920

COMMODORE.

1st N.A.M.

A. S. A.

For remarks.

[Signature]

FIRST NAVAL MEMBER.
23/12/1920.

*and
other.*

1921/032

copy for 21/032

21/065/

25 January 1921

STOWAGE OF PETROL FOR AIRCRAFT IN H.M.A. SHIPS.

The Commodore Commanding
H.M. Australian Fleet.

With reference to your No. 1369/AF.1250 of 17th December 1920, I am commanded by the Naval Board to inform you that, in view of Admiralty policy, it has been decided, for the present not to fit "AUSTRALIA" or any of the Australian Light Cruisers to carry Air or Sea planes.

21/065

2. The question of fitting H.M.A. Ships to carry aircraft is, however, still under consideration and will be discussed at the forthcoming conference of Admirals and at the Imperial Naval Conference.

3. It has therefore been decided not to provide tanks for petrol in H.M.A. Ships.

W. Amt.
Secretary.

*Index para. I of memo. of 20/12/20.
to C. S. G. H. K.
PA
G.D.
25/1/21
Hemsey
15.2.21*

First Naval Member.
4/1/21

*In view of remarks
on 20/1/21
Hemsey
15.2.21*

*Hemsey
15.2.21*

1921/032