

Basic Detail Report



HMAS Vampire

Vessel number

HV000073

Date

1956

Primary Maker

Cockatoo Island Dockyard

Medium

Metal

Description

HMAS VAMPIRE was built as ship number 189 at Cockatoo Island Dockyard, Sydney to the English Daring Class destroyer design (with extensive modifications). HMAS VAMPIRE was laid down in 1952, launched in 1956 and joined the fleet after commissioning and acceptance trials

offshore in 1959. HMAS VAMPIRE's sister ships included the HMAS VENDETTA, and the HMAS VOYAGER which was tragically lost in a collision off Jervis Bay in 1964. HMAS VAMPIRE served on a lengthy deployment to eastern Asian waters in 1967 in-between routine duties around the Australian coastline. The original armament included six 4.5-inch (114 mm) dual-purpose guns in three twin mountings; two single and two twin 40/60 mm Bofors AA guns; Mark 10 Limbo anti-submarine mortar; and a quintuple 21-inch (530 mm) torpedo launcher. The cramped living spaces graphically illustrate the nature of warship design: machinery, communications and weaponry come before the comfort of the crew. When the vessel became a training ship in the early 1980s, the anti-submarine system was removed to make way for a classroom, and the ship's complement was 219 regular crew with an additional 75 trainees. The 118.65 m long hull has a full load displacement of 3,950 tonnes, and the top speed is over 30 knots. At a cruising speed of 20 knots it has a range of 3,000 nautical miles or 5600 km. HMAS VAMPIRE is now decommissioned and remains afloat and on display at the Australian National Maritime Museum. It is often used as a venue for navy reunions and volunteers operate an amateur radio station (call sign VK2CCV) from the bridge wireless office every Saturday from 0000 till 0600 UTC (the old GMT).

Dimensions

Vessel Dimensions: 118.65 m x 13.11 m x 5.49 m, 3950 tonnes (389.3 ft x 43 ft x 18 ft, 4013 tons)