

Basic Detail Report



Nabilla

Vessel number

HV000083

Date

1945

Primary Maker

Slazengers Ltd

Description

NABILLA was one of the many vessels built around Australia during World War II for wartime service. It was given the number AT2239. NABILLA was built at a yard owned by Slazengers. This firm established a wartime yard building barges and motorized scows at Putney in Sydney NSW, on the Parramatta River. They even took over the local theatre for space to build some of the joinery work. However Slazengers also expanded their production to a yard in Stockton, and NABILLA was built at this site. This tug would have been one of many vessels built after the Japanese threat to the Pacific became extremely serious from early 1942 onwards. Initially new craft were needed in a hurry and yards were soon mobilised to build them as quickly as possible. Slazengers had experience in wood lamination through building tennis rackets, and this was apparently enough background for them to be engaged in wooden vessel production. NABILLA is a 13.7 metre long timber tug, designed in Australia but influenced by American designs, which used the term 'towboat'. One of the design factors was that the hulls would fit through railway tunnels. NABILLA was built toward the end of the war and was used to tow supply barges amongst the island groups around Papua New Guinea and nearby once they were regained from Japanese control. Most of the vessels were then decommissioned after the war. In 1954 the South Australian Harbors Board purchased five of these tugs, and NABILLA found use in Port Lincoln SA for many years before being transferred to other ports. It was finally sold by the SA government to a fisherman at Carpenters Rocks, SA. In 2006 NABILLA has been put on display, out of the water, at the Axel Stenross Maritime Museum in Port Lincoln, SA. (Prepared from research material supplied by Axel Stenross Maritime Museum and private material from BJ Browne)

Dimensions

Vessel Dimensions: 13.72 m x 13.41 m x 4.34 m x 1.52 m (45 ft x 44 ft x 14.25 ft x 5 ft) Engine dimensions: 127.2 x 147.6 mm, 186.43 kilowatts, 6 cylinders (5 x 5.8 in, 250 horsepower)