



H.M.A.S. GOORANGAI

At the outbreak of the Second World War many yachtsmen were members of the Royal Australian Navy Volunteer Reserve and were called up immediately to serve in Her Majesty's ships and the Merchant Navy.

Many Commercial Ships were requisitioned for the RAN including a steam trawler built in the United Kingdom in 1919 for the North Sea with a gross tonnage of 223 tons. She was requisitioned by the RAN in 1939 from J. Cam & Sons, Pyrmont, with whom she had operated off New South Wales and New Zealand coasts. She was commissioned H.M.A.S. "Goorangai".

Her armament was: 1 x 12 pounder gun
 2 depth charges
 6 Lee Enfield .303 rifles

She was equipped as a minesweeper having one single oropesa mine sweep with an otter board and kite, and could sweep a channel of 750 fathoms.

She was part of a minesweeping flotilla of similar vessels and was employed sweeping mines laid by the German merchant raider 'Pinguin' off the coast from the Prom to Cape Otway. She was engaged daily sweeping a channel on the leading lights of the Heads to some 20 miles to sea. These ships were unable to sweep at night as the mines could not be seen and therefore spent each night in Queenscliff, where they picked up their mail and signals. This, of course, gave the crew the opportunity to try the local waters!

They then proceeded to Portsea, anchored and went to sea at dawn.

H.M.A.S. Goorangai was underway from Queenscliff to Portsea at approximately 2100 hrs. on November 20, 1940. The Motor Vessel "Duntroon" was proceeding down the South Channel, blacked out, with a strong ebb tide in excess of twenty knots. She ran down H.M.A.S. Goorangai which sank with all hands.

H.M.A.S. Goorangai's crew comprised:

Her Captain, a Lieutenant Commander, 2 Warrant Officers,
2 Engine Room Artificers, 1 Petty Officer, 1 Telegraphist,
1 Signaler, 4 Able Seamen, 1 Ordinary Seaman,
1 Leading Stoker, 3 Stockers, 1 Steward and 1 Cook.

A former Club member, Les Nangle, was a Petty Officer in the RANVR prior to the War and was called up. Les served in H.M.A.S. Goorangai and left her just before her last voyage. Many of his mates were on H.M.A.S. Goorangai and it was to preserve their memory that he presented the Goorangai trophy to the Club

*Compiled by DAVID PETLEY, Honorary Treasurer
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