

Basic Detail Report



ANMS1445[077]

Title

Sutherland and Cook stopping leaks on HMAS WYATT EARP

Date

1947

Medium

Photograph, paper

Dimensions

Overall: 150 × 190 mm

Name

Photograph

History

Lincoln Ellsworth (1880-1951) made four expeditions to Antarctica between 1933 and 1939 using MS WYATT EARP as an aircraft transporter and base. The ship was a former Norwegian herring boat. In 1939 it was purchased from Ellsworth by the Australian Government and handed over the Royal Australian Navy. On restarting its Antarctic research program the ship was recommissioned by the Australian Government as HMAS WYATT EARP on 17 November 1947 at Port Adelaide and William Frank Cook appointed First Lieutenant. Following a visit by the Antarctic explorer Sir Douglas Mawson, it sailed for Williamstown, Victoria, in December 1947 for preparation and loading, which included an OS2U Kingfisher amphibian aircraft of the RAAF. HMAS WYATT EARP left from Nelson Pier, Williamstown, on 19 December 1947 and proceeded to Hobart. Gales caused some problems en route. After several days in Hobart, the ship left for the Antarctic on 26 December 1947, but storm damage caused its return to Melbourne for repairs, leaving again on 8 February 1948. Bad weather made landing at Adelie Land impossible. HMAS WYATT EARP made for Macquarie Island where it met HMAS LABUAN and transferred a team of scientists over to it. HMAS WYATT EARP then returned to Melbourne ending its career in the RAN.