

# Basic Detail Report

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**Title**

SS RIVER HUNTER, Wallaroo [12 March 1947]

**Date**

1947

**Primary Maker**

Brett Hilder

**Medium**

Watercolour on paper

**Dimensions**

Overall: 187 x 275 mm, 0.007 kg

**Name**

Painting

**History**

Brett Hilder born in 1911 was the youngest son of renowned watercolourist Jesse Jewhurst Hilder. In 1927 he became a crewmember for ships owned by Burns Philp & Co. He traveled extensively to the Dutch East Indies and South Pacific Islands, and eventually became a ship's master. During WWII he taught navigation to Australian air crew and attained the rank of Wing Commander. He flew on Catalina flying boats for the Royal Australian Air Force. After the war Hilder resumed his career as a merchant sea-captain. During the war Hilder started painting watercolours depicting landscapes, details and portraits of the people and places he visited. He also wrote extensively about navigation and his travels for magazines such as 'Walkabout'. Hilder is the author of numerous books on his own experiences and in 1966 published 'The Heritage of JJ Hilder' a book about his father's art career. This accompanied a national touring exhibition of his father's work organised by the Queensland Art Gallery. Brett Hilder passed away in April 1981. SS RIVER HUNTER was owned by the Commonwealth of Australia Department of Shipping, and Burns Philp were their agents.