

Basic Detail Report



ANMS0823[228]

Title

Crossing the Line Ceremony, HMAS MELBOURNE (Note this image contains offensive depictions of First Peoples and may cause trauma for people whose identities are directly impacted)

Date

27 February 1928

Name

Photograph

History

HMAS MELBOURNE was commissioned in January 1913 at Birkenhead, England, and arrived in Fremantle, Western Australia, on 10 March 1913. During WW1 MELBOURNE assisted in the seizure of German possessions in the Pacific and undertook patrols in this region as well as in the West Indies and the North Sea. MELBOURNE's wartime duties concluded in 1919 when the vessel arrived in Sydney Harbour in May of that year. MELBOURNE was paid off in August 1919 and remained inactive in Sydney until recommissioned in April 1920. After four years patrolling mainly Australian coastal waters MELBOURNE was again paid off in Sydney in September 1924. The vessel was recommissioned in October 1925 and worked mainly out of Port Phillip, Westernport and Sydney. On 9 February 1928 MELBOURNE sailed from Sydney to England on a final cruise and was broken up in 1929. The souvenir booklet titled 'Souvenir of Final Cruise of HMAS MELBOURNE 1913 - 1928' lists the cast of the Crossing the Line Ceremony that took place during the vessel's final voyage. Court King Neptune: Petty Officer Barker. Queen Amphitrite: Able Seaman Britton. Pages: Leading Seaman Bennett and Leading Seaman King. Secretary: Petty Officer Wolsey. Judge: Master-at-Arms Clifford. Starboard Light: Able Seaman Fenwick. Port Light: Leading Seaman Osborne. Physicians: Yeoman of Signals Guppy and Leading Seaman Slaughter. Barbers: Leading Signalmans Smart, Leading Seaman Levy, Leading Seaman Slaughter and Able Seaman Gibbs. Standard Bearer: Petty Officer Newton. Cushion Bearer: Chief Petty Officer Miller. Commissioner of Police: Supply Chief Petty Officer Hilton. Police Woman: Able Seaman Cully. Police: Able Seaman Cook, Stoker Petty Officer Burns, Leading Telegraphist Ansell, Leading Seaman Platt, Able Seaman Dennis, Telegraphist Phaup. Bears: Regulating Petty Officer Cake, Leading Seaman Green, Leading Seaman Raymont, Yeoman of Signals Passell, Chief Petty Officer Dixon, Able Seaman Carlton, Leading Signalmans Cooper, Leading Signalmans Cox.