

Commissioned at Portsmouth 24 April 1928
 Carried Duke of Gloucester back
 to England 28 March 1935
 Present King George V's Silver Jubilee
 Spithead July 1935
 Escorted first Anzac convoy towards
 Middle East January 1940
 Part of force in the attempt to disable the French
 battleship Richelieu at Dakar 8 July, 1940

Second attack on Vichy naval force at Dakar and damaged
 destroyer L'Audacieux 23 September 1940
 Australia slightly damaged by two 6" shell hits and Walrus
 aircraft shot down with loss of three crew 25 September 1940
 Rescued the survivors of a Sunderland flying boat, West of Hebrides
 29 October 1940
 Attacked by German bomber while docked at Liverpool (UK) - no damage
 December 1940
 Played out vital role in the Battle of the Coral Sea and subjected to
 heavy Japanese aerial attack - (R/A J G Grace RN) May 1942

Present at the Battle of Savo Island (R/A V A C Crutchley VC RN) 9 August 1942
 Supported with bombardments the assault operations at Arawe,
 Cape Gloucester, Hollandia, Wakde, Biak, Noemfoor, Aitape and Morotai
 26 December 1943 - 15 September 1944

While covering landings at Leyte in Philippines, a Japanese suicide
 plane dived into the bridge superstructure
 Thirty killed (including Captain E F V Dechaineux RAN)
 Sixty one wounded (including Commodore J A Collins RAN) 21 October 1944

Covered landings in Lingayen Gulf, Philippines
 During bitter fighting of these operations, cruiser was hit four times and near-missed-once by
 Japanese Kamikaze aircraft and suffered considerable damage

Forty four killed
 Sixty nine wounded

Withdrawn for dockyard repairs

Visited Japan
 Urgent trip to Heard Island in Southern Indian Ocean to embark critically
 ill doctor
 Part of royal escort for visit to Australia, of Queen Elizabeth II and
 Prince Philip

Decommissioned 31 August 1954
 Scrapped 1956



HISTORY OF SERVICE:

H.M.A.S. AUSTRALIA

County 'Kent' Class
 HEAVY CRUISER

10,000 tons
 31.5 knots
 8 x 8" guns
 8 x 4" guns
 8 x 21" torpedo tubes
 Pom pom, Oerliken and
 Bofor guns
 (X-8" gun turret
 landed Feb 1945)
 One Walrus aircraft
 4½" armour belt along
 water line fitted 1938/39
 External bulges against
 torpedo attack

5-9 January 1945

Sydney - January/May 1945
 Plymouth (UK) - July 1945/1946
 5 September 1947

July 1950
 1954

Steamed 625,000 miles
 Rounded the world three times
 Passed through Panama Canal three
 times and Suez Canal once
 Longest commissioned RAN ship to
 experience extensive peacetime
 service and action in war

January 1945
 Signal from R/A Sewell in USS West Virginia to Australia
 "You and your fine ship can certainly take it.
 All hands are deserving of recommendation.
 We are proud to be associated with you."

HONOURS and AWARDS:

1 CB
 2 US Navy Cross
 5 DSC
 13 DSM
 27 Mentioned in
 Despatches

