

Completed 9 July 1928

Became squadron flagship for eleven years, relinquishing same for brief periods during World War II

from May 1931

Escorted Duke of Gloucester during visit for Victoria's Centenary Celebrations

...1934

Assisted with escort of first Australian and New Zealand troop convoys towards Middle East and later to Cape of Good Hope

January 1940

While in Fremantle, ordered to slip and search for German raider Pinguin, known to be operating about 600 miles off coast. Rescued three of Port Brisbane's lifeboats, then returned to port

20/27 November 1940

Joined in hunt for German pocket battleship Admiral Scheer in Seychelles and Maldive Islands area, which evaded action by returning to the South Atlantic.

February 1940

Intercepted the German supply ship Coburg and the tanker Ketty Brovig which after gunfire from Canberra, were both scuttled

4 March 1941

Escorted convoys to Singapore, Ceylon, across Tasman, New Guinea, Malaya and Java

Mid 1941 to February 1942

Canberra at No 1 buoy Farm Cove, Sydney, was a prime target when Japanese midget submarines attacked on the night of

31 May - 1 June 1942

In covering the first US amphibious landings in the Solomon Islands, in the most disastrous naval action of the Pacific campaign, a strong force of Japanese cruisers and one destroyer, swept round Savo Island and surprised the Allied ships. Canberra was crippled before she could fire an effective shot. Tragically and precipitately Canberra was ordered to be sunk six hours later.

Of the total number of 819 ships company on Canberra, 84 were killed or missing (including Captain F E Getting RAN) and 105 wounded.

9 August 1942

**SUNK:**

9° 10' 40" S  
159° 52' 15" E

Canberra was the third Australian cruiser to be lost in World War II, and Australia's largest naval ship loss.



**HISTORY OF SERVICE:**

**H.M.A.S. CANBERRA**

County 'Kent' Class  
HEAVY CRUISER

10,000 tons  
31.5 knots  
8 x 8" guns  
4 x 4" guns  
8 x 21" torpedo tubes  
Pom pom and Oerliken guns  
One Walrus aircraft  
External bulges against torpedo attack



Pro Rege Lege et Grege  
For the Ruler the Law and the People