

Victorian Heritage Database Report

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J-1 SUBMARINE

Location

Ships Graveyard, Outside Port Phillip Heads Area, Bass Strait

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

S356

Date lost

1927

Construction material

Steel

Hull

Double hulled type, triple screw submarine. 4x bow torpedo tubes, 2x beam torpedo tubes, 1x 3" DP/HA gun, 1x 2 pdr. Fitted with an arrangement for discharging depth charges or mines. Diesel/electric

Engine specification

Surface: 3x12 cylinder Vickers, solid injection, direct reversing, 4 cycle diesel engines, 1200 HP at 380 RPM. *2*3
Submerged: 2x Mather and Platt, 1400 HP electric motors powered by 4 banks of 58 cell batteries.

Length/Breadth/Depth

275.00 Feet / 23.60 Feet / 14.00 Feet

Year of construction

1915

Built port

Portsmouth

Date lost

1927

Owner

1916: British Admiralty, 1919: Royal Australian Navy, 1923: Melbourne Salvage Company

Cause of loss

Scuttled

VHR history

In 1914/15 the British Admiralty received information that the German Navy were developing a submarine capable of surface speeds in excess of 20 knots. In order to combat this threat The Admiralty designed and constructed the J Class Submarine (nick named REAPERS). The original plans called for 8 J Class Submarines however only 7 were built. The J Class Submarines were attached to The 11th Submarine Flotilla and all ships saw heavy action in WW1. Only one ship, the J 6 was lost, and that by 'friendly fire'. After the war the 6 remaining J Class Submarines were given to Australia along with 6 destroyers. The ships arrived in 1919 after a lengthy voyage from England during which a number of the Submarines had to be towed by surface craft. The ships were given an extensive refit in Sydney and were attached to Osmond House in Geelong. The ships did not live up to expectations, were expensive to keep and were out dated. By May 1927 only the J-7 was still afloat. The J-1 was sold to The Melbourne Salvage Company and after all non ferrous material had been removed was scuttled outside the Heads on 26 May 1926. Site's position (GPS) reported by F. Derksen, May 1992. J-1 was identified by its unusual bridge structure.