

# Victorian Heritage Database Report

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## J-5 SUBMARINE



S385 J5Submarine  
ShipsGraveyard  
DiverWithconningTower



S385 J5Submarine  
ShipsGraveyard Interior



S385 J5Submarine  
ShipsGraveyard SideDetail



S385 J5Submarine  
ShipsGraveyard  
BowSideView



S385 J5Submarine  
ShipsGraveyard  
TopViewConningTower

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### Location

Ships Graveyard, Outside Port Phillip Heads Area, Bass Strait

### Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

S385

### Date lost

31/05/1926

### Construction material

Steel

### Engine specification

Surface: 3 x 12 cylinder Vickers, solid injection, direct reversing, 4 cycle diesel engines. 1200 HP at 380 RPM.  
Submerged: 2 x Mather and Platt, 1400 HP Electric Motors powered by 4 banks of 58 cell batteries.

### **Length/Breadth/Depth**

274.00 Feet / 23.60 Feet / 14.00 Feet

### **Year of construction**

1916

### **Built port**

Devonport

### **Built country**

England, UK

### **Date lost**

31/05/1926

### **Cause of loss**

Scuttled

### **VHR history**

German Navy was 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 Submarines were attached to The 11th Submarine Flotilla and all saw heavy action in WW1. Only one submarine was lost, J-6 and that by so called 'friendly fire'. After the war the 6 remaining J Class Submarines and 6 destroyers were given to Australia. The ships arrived in 1919 after a lengthy voyage from England in which many 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 The vessels did not live up to expectations, were expensive to operate and run and were out of date. By May 1927 only the J-7 was still afloat. The J-5 was sold to The Melbourne Salvage Company and sunk outside the Heads in June 1926.<br /> <br /> The second J Class submarine to be located was found by the Geelong Skindivers Club on 4 May 1974.<br /> <br /> The submarine was inspected on the afternoon of the 29 August by Terry Arnott and Jim Anderson. Measurements taken of the bow ring confirmed the vessels identification as the J-5.