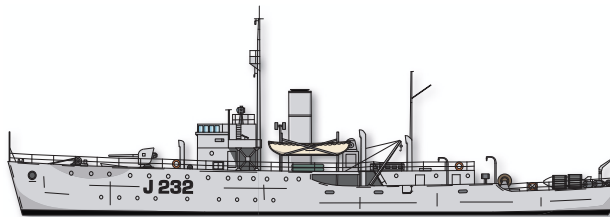


HMAS Deloraine**CORVETTE**

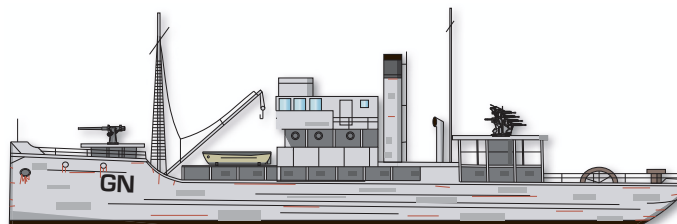
650 tons 186 ft (length) x 31 ft (beam) Max speed: 15 kts
Armament: 1 x 12-pounder (3-inch) gun Lewis & Vickers MGs; depth charges



Deloraine was one of 60 corvettes designed and built in Australia during the war. Having only just arrived in Darwin, *Deloraine* famously sank the Japanese submarine *I-124* on 20 January 1942. By 19 February a total of five corvettes were based in Darwin, forming the 24th Minesweeping Flotilla (the other vessels were *Katoomba*, *Lithgow*, *Townsville* and *Warrnambool*). During the raid *Lithgow* was away at Thursday Island, having escorted Convoy DT.2 from Darwin. *Townsville* was patrolling outside the harbour – the previous evening she had searched for a submarine with the destroyer *USS Peary*. *Katoomba* was in the precarious position of being under repair in the Darwin floating dock but managed to fight off attacking divebombers. *Deloraine* and *Warrnambool* were anchored with the other RAN ships in the vicinity of Stokes Hill wharf but survived undamaged.

HMAS Gunbar**AUXILIARY MINESWEEPER**

480 tons 150 ft (length) x 30 ft (beam) Max speed: 10 kts
Armament: 1 x 12-pdr/3-inch LA gun; 1 x Quad Vickers 0.50-inch AA MG; depth charges



Gunbar was a small coastal freighter built in 1911. She was requisitioned in 1940 and converted into an auxiliary minesweeper. After service in WA, *Gunbar* arrived in Darwin at the end of January 1942 where she joined *Terka* and *Tolga* in service with the 70th Auxiliary Minesweeping Group. However, rather than minesweeping, these ships were used for various harbour duties such as water carriers. At the start of the raid *Gunbar* happened to be passing through the boom gate and was heavily targeted by Zero strafers. Her quad 0.50-inch Vickers AA gun, mounted aft, was prominent and may have been a reason she was targeted. However, this weapon was unserviceable and the crew fired back with small arms.