

HMAS Rankin



Based at [Fleet Base West](#) in Western Australia, HMAS *Rankin* is the final of the six [Collins class submarines](#) to enter service in the Royal Australian Navy. These submarines are a formidable element in Australia's defence capability.

Rankin was launched in Adelaide, South Australia by Lieutenant Commander Robert Rankin's daughter, Ms Patricia Rankin (on behalf of her mother, Mrs Molly McLean) on 7 November 2001 and commissioned at Fleet Base West, Western Australia on 29 March 2003.

HMAS *Rankin's* operational characteristics and range have been tailored specifically for its defence and two-ocean surveillance role in the Royal Australian Navy. Designed to be as quiet as advanced technology can achieve, Collins class submarines have been developed from five generations of submarines designed and built by the Swedish Navy.

One of the first submarines to be totally designed by computers, HMAS *Rankin* boasts a vast range of features. They include a high-performance hull form, highly automated controls, low indiscretion rates, high shock resistance, optimal noise suppression and an efficient weapons handling and discharge system.

The submarine moves silently on electric power supplied to the propulsion motor by banks of new technology lead-free batteries. The batteries are charged by three onboard diesel generator sets.

The sophisticated combat system gathers its intelligence from its sensors, computes the input and then launches and directs weapons.

Since commissioning, HMAS *Rankin* has successfully conducted a range of activities throughout the region in support of Australian Defence Force exercises, operations and the government's strategic directives.



HMAS Rankin at the completion of the formation exercise in Cockburn Sound.



Commanding Officer	Commander Gary Lawton
Class	Collins Class
Type	Guided Missile Submarine, Diesel-Electric (SSG)
Pennant	S78
International Callsign	VMLR
Motto	Defend The Weak
Home Port	Fleet Base West
Builder	Australian Submarine Corp, Adelaide
Laid Down	12 May 1995
Launched	7 November 2001
Launched by	Ms Patricia Rankin (on behalf of her mother, Mrs Molly McLean)
Commissioned	29 March 2003
Dimensions & Displacement	
Displacement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> surfaced: 3,100 tonnes dived: 3,407 tonnes
Length	77.8 metres
Beam	7.8 metres
Draught	7 metres
Performance	
Speed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> top speed: 20 knots dived: 20 knots surfaced: 10 knots snorting: 10 knots
Range	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> surfaced: 11,500 nautical miles



725 Squadron's MH-60R 'Romeo' helicopter conducts an Anti-Submarine exercise with HMAS Rankin in the Eastern Australian Exercise Area.

HMAS Rankin is named after [Lieutenant Commander Robert William 'Oscar' Rankin, RAN](#) who distinguished himself in action during World War II. He commanded the sloop [HMAS Yarra \(II\)](#) and was conducting convoy escort duties in the Northern Indian Ocean when attacked by a Japanese force in February 1942. Facing a far superior force of three heavy cruisers and two destroyers, Rankin gallantly positioned his ship between the Japanese and the scattering convoy vessels. Rankin fought his ship to the very last in an intense exchange. He was killed when an eight inch salvo hit the bridge shortly after passing the order to abandon ship. HMAS Rankin's motto "Defend The Weak" is testimony to Lieutenant Commander Rankin and Yarra's determination to defend the unarmed convoy ships.



A HMAS Stirling Port Services member assists in bringing HMAS Rankin alongside Diamantina Pier after being away on deployment for four months.

History of the Crest

The Blazon

Argent; fess wavy of three azure and argent a shield azure, fimbriated gold, charged with an admiralty anchor or, surmounted by an esquire's helmet proper.

Motif Description

The "Barry Wavy" in blue and white represents the Navy and the sea. In heraldry, an officer in the Navy above the rank of Lieutenant can be called or recognised as an Esquire and an Esquire was also regarded as a shield bearer. In this instance, the Esquire's helmet represents Lieutenant Commander Rankin as the Esquire, carrying his shield, namely HMAS Yarra and protecting the ships it was escorting from attack by superior Japanese forces in WWII. The anchor on the shield depicts the naval environment of the protection provided by Rankin.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • dived: 400 nautical miles • snorting: 9,000 nautical miles
Complement	
Crew	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sailors: 38 • officers: 10 • plus trainees
Propulsion	
Machinery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 Hedemora/Garden Island Type V18B/14 diesels • 3 Jeumont Schneider generators • 1 MacTaggart Scott DM 43006 hydraulic motor for emergency propulsion.
Armament	
Missiles	McDonnell Douglas Sub Harpoon Block 1B (UGM 84C); active radar homing
Torpedoes	McDonnell Douglas Sub Harpoon Block 1B (UGM 84C); active radar homing
Mines	44 in lieu of torpedoes.
Physical Countermeasures	Decoys: 2 SSE.
Electronic Countermeasures	ESM: Condor CS-5600; intercept and warning.
Radars	Navigation: Kelvin Hughes Type 1007; I-band.
Sonars	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thomson Sintra Scylla active/passive bow array and passive flank, intercept and ranging arrays. • Thales SHORTAS retractable, passive.
Weapon Control Systems	AN-BYG 1. Link 11.
Resources	
Datasheet	HMAS Rankin
News Articles	Navy Daily
Image Gallery	HMAS Rankin