

HMAS Collins



Based at [Fleet Base West](#) in Western Australia, HMAS *Collins* was the first 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.

Collins was launched in Adelaide, South Australia by Vice Admiral Sir John Collins' widow, Lady Phyllis Collins on 28 August 1993 and commissioned in Adelaide on 27 July 1996.

HMAS *Collins*'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 *Collins* 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.



A Submarine Launched Countermeasure Emulator (SLACE) vehicle is embarked onto HMAS Collins from Diamantina Pier at HMAS Stirling.



Commanding Officer	Commander Christopher Ellis
Class	Collins Class
Type	Guided Missile Submarine, Diesel-Electric (SSG)
Pennant	S73
International Callsign	VMLC
Motto	Vanguard
Home Port	Fleet Base West
Builder	Australian Submarine Corp, Adelaide
Laid Down	14 February 1990
Launched	28 August 1993
Launched by	Lady Phyllis Collins (widow of Vice Admiral Sir John Collins)
Commissioned	27 July 1996
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 dived: 400 nautical miles snorting: 9,000 nautical miles



HMAS Collins conducting basin trials between Diamantina and Parkes Wharf at Fleet Base West.

Since commissioning, HMAS *Collins* 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 Collins arrives in Sydney Harbour.

HMAS *Collins* is named after [Vice Admiral Sir John Augustine Collins, KBE, CB, RAN](#) who was a significant figure in the Navy's history. During his tenure as the captain of [HMAS Sydney \(II\)](#) in World War II, Collins led his men to victory in the Mediterranean against a formidable enemy. In June 1944, in recognition of his valuable services, he was made a Commodore First Class and appointed Commander of the Australian Squadron. In October 1944, Collins was severely injured after his flagship, [HMAS Australia \(II\)](#) was attacked by Japanese suicide aircraft. In 1947, Collins was promoted to the rank of Rear Admiral, becoming one of the first graduates of the Royal Australian Naval College to attain flag rank. In February 1948, he assumed the appointment of First Naval Member of the Australian Commonwealth Naval Board and Chief of Naval Staff.

History of the Crest

The Blazon

Azure; a Maltese Cross argent surmounted by an Admiralty anchor.

Motif Description

The blue field represents the Navy and the sea. The white Maltese Cross represents wartime naval service in the Mediterranean Sea while in command of HMAS Sydney (II) where the then Captain Collins earned his reputation. The double fouled anchor has been lifted from the Chief of Naval Staff (CNS) flag and indicates that Collins was the first Australian born Chief of Naval Staff.

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	6-21 in (533 mm) fwd tubes. Gould Mk 48 Mod 4/6/7; dual purpose; wire-guided; active/passive 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 Collins
News Articles	Navy Daily
Image Gallery	HMAS Collins

