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Department of Defence

Ship's Log

See articles of DI(N) ADMIN 30-3, 30-5, 30-15

*(Instructions to Commanding Officers, Navigating Officers
and Officers of the Watch)*

HMAS	
Month	Year

WARNING

If entries in this log are considered to be classified, the pages containing such information and the front and back covers are to be stamped with the appropriate classification. Classified Ship's Logs are to be given adequate physical security protection according to the classification.

Navigating Officer's signature
Commanding Officer's signature

Letters to indicate the state of the weather

A capital letter denotes 'intense' or 'heavy', eg R = heavy rain. Repetition of a letter denotes 'continuous', eg RR = continuous heavy rain. Addition of suffix 'O' to a letter denotes 'slight', eg ro ro = continuous slight rain.

Beaufort letters	Weather	Beaufort letters	Weather
b	Blue sky (0 - 2/8 clouded)	m	Mist
bc	Sky partly clouded (2/8 - 6/8 clouded)	o	Overcast sky (eg completely covered with a uniform layer of thick or heavy cloud)
c	Cloudy (more than 6/8 clouded)	p	Passing showers
d	Drizzle	q	Squally weather
e	Wet air (without precipitation)	r	Rain
f	Fog	rs	Sleet
fs	Fog over sea	s	Snow
fg	Fog over low ground (inland station)	t	Thunder
g	Gale (Beaufort force 8 or 9 maintained for a period of not less than 10 minutes)	t/r or t/s	Thunderstorm with rain or snow
G	Storm (Beaufort force 10 maintained for a period of not less than 10 minutes)	u	Ugly threatening sky
h	Hail	v	Unusual visibility
jp	Precipitation in sight of station	w	Dew
kg	Line squall	x	Hoar frost
ks	Storm or drifting snow	y	Dry air
kz	Sandstorm or dust storm	z	Haze
l	Lightning		

Fog and visibility scale

Code number	Conditions	Visibility
0	Dense fog	Less than 1 cable (50 m)
1	Thick fog	(50 - 200 m)
2	Fog	1 - 2.5 cables (200 - 500 m)
3	Moderate fog	2.5 - 5 cables (500 - 1000 m)
4	Mist or haze, or very poor visibility	5 - 10 cables (1 - 2 km)
5	Poor visibility	1 - 3 n miles (2 - 5 km)
6	Moderate visibility	3 - 6 n miles (5 - 10 km)
7	Good visibility	6 - 12 n miles (10 - 20 km)
8	Very good visibility	12 - 30 n miles (20 - 50 km)
9	Excellent visibility	Over 30 n miles (50 km)

Sea state

* The average wave height is obtained from the large well-formed waves of the wave system being observed.

Note: In all cases the exact bounding height is included in the lower category, eg a sea state of 4 metres is described as 'Rough'.

Code number	Conditions	Height in metres *
0	Calm - glassy	0
1	Calm - rippled	0 - 0.1
2	Smooth wavelets	0.1 - 0.5
3	Slight	0.5 - 1.25
4	Moderate	1.25 - 2.5
5	Rough	2.5 - 4.0
6	Very rough	4 - 6
7	High	6 - 9
8	Very high	9 - 14
9	Phenomenal	Over 14

Beaufort wind scale correlative sea disturbance table

This table is only intended as a guide to show roughly what may be expected in the open sea. It should never be used the reverse way, eg for logging or reporting the state of the sea.

In enclosed waters, or when near land with an offshore wind, wave heights and lengths will be smaller, especially the latter.

The lag effect between the wind getting up and the sea increasing should be borne in mind.

Fetch, depth, swell, heavy rain and tide effects should be considered when estimating the wind force from the appearance of the sea.

* Figures in brackets indicate the probable approximate maximum height reached by about 1 wave in 10.

Beaufort number	General description	Limits of velocity in knots	Sea criterion	Probable mean wave height in metres *
0	Calm	< 1	Sea like mirror.	—
1	Light air	1 - 3	Ripples with the appearance of scales are formed but without foam crests.	0.1 (0.1)
2	Light breeze	4 - 6	Small wavelets, still short but more pronounced; crests have a glossy appearance and do not break.	0.2 (0.3)
3	Gentle	7 - 10	Large wavelets; crests begin to break; foam of glassy appearance; perhaps scattered white horses.	0.6 (1)
4	Moderate breeze	11 - 16	Small waves, becoming longer; fairly frequent white horses.	1 (1.5)
5	Fresh breeze	17 - 21	Moderate waves, taking on a more pronounced long form; many white horses are formed (chance of some spray).	2 (2.5)
6	Strong breeze	22 - 27	Large waves begin to form; the white foam crests are more extensive everywhere (probably some spray).	3 (4)
7	Moderate gale	28 - 33	Sea heaps up and white foam from breaking waves begins to be blown in streaks along the direction of the wind.	4 (5.5)
8	Fresh gale	34 - 40	Moderately high waves of greater length; edges of crests begin to break into spindrift; foam is blown in well-marked streaks along the direction of the wind.	5.5 (7.5)
9	Strong gale	41 - 47	High waves; dense streaks of foam along the direction of the wind; crests of waves begin to topple, tumble and roll over; spray may affect visibility.	7 (10)
10	Whole gale	48 - 55	Very high waves with long overhanging crests; the resulting foam, in great patches, is blown in dense white streaks along the direction of the wind; on the whole, the surface of the sea takes a white appearance; the tumbling of the sea becomes heavy and shock-like; visibility affected.	9 (12.5)
11	Storm	56 - 65	Exceptionally high waves (small and medium-sized ships might, for a time, be lost to view behind the waves); the sea is completely covered with long white patches of foam lying along the direction of the wind; everywhere the edges of the wave crests are blown into froth; visibility affected.	11.5 (16)
12	Hurricane	Above 65	The air is filled with foam and spray; sea completely white with driving spray; visibility very seriously affected.	14