



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

WEDNESDAY, 27 AUGUST, 1980

HMAS DIAMANTINA - GIFT TO QUEENSLAND MARITIME MUSEUM

The Commonwealth Government is to make a gift of the frigate, HMAS Diamantina, to the Queensland Maritime Museum Association.

As the frigate was built in Queensland (by Walkers Ltd. at Maryborough), is named after the wife of Queensland's first Governor (Sir George Bowen) and carries the same name as one of Queensland's major rivers, it is fitting that Queensland should be the final home for the Diamantina.

HMAS Diamantina, first commissioned in April, 1945, is the last surviving World War II vessel of the R.A.N. and was the scene for the acceptance of the surrender of the Japanese at Nauru and Ocean Island. She was the research platform from which was conducted the investigation of many oceanographic phenomena (including the Diamantina Trench off Western Australia, the deepest known trench in the Indian Ocean).

Her transfer to the Queensland Maritime Museum Association is supported by the Naval Historical Society of Australia.

The Queensland Maritime Museum Association plans to extend its Maritime Museum to preserve and exhibit items of historical interest pertaining to ships and the sea, and the Diamantina will be installed as a permanently dry-berthed exhibit within the old Graving Dock at South Brisbane.

I wish the Association every success with the restoration and exhibition of the Diamantina, which will be handed over at a ceremony to be arranged in the near future.