



1970

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS

REPORT

relating to the proposed construction of

SLEEPING, MESSING AND AMENITIES FACILITIES FOR CHIEFS AND PETTY OFFICERS

at

H.M.A.S. Cerberus, Westernport Victoria

(EIGHTEENTH REPORT OF 1970)

COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
CANBERRA: 1970

C O N T E N T S

	<u>Paragraph</u>
The Reference	1
The Committee's Investigation	3
H.M.A.S. Cerberus	
Functions	4
Facilities	6
Master Plan	7
The Need	9
The Proposed Buildings	
Design and Standards	15
Siting	18
Galley, Mess and Recreation Block	20
Sleeping Blocks	21
Construction and Materials	22
Mechanical Services	26
Electrical Services	28
Hydraulic Services	29
Fire Protection	30
Civil Works	31
Committee's Conclusion	32
Other Observations	33
Floor Coverings	35
Estimate of Cost	37
Programme	38
Recommendations and Conclusions	39

PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS

SLEEPING, MESSING AND AMENITIES FACILITIES FOR
CHIEFS AND PETTY OFFICERS AT H.M.A.S. CERBERUS
WESTERNPORT, VICTORIA

R E P O R T

On 30 July 1970, the Governor-General in Council referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works for investigation and report to the Parliament the proposal to construct sleeping, messing and amenities facilities for chiefs and petty officers at H.M.A.S. Cerberus, Westernport, Victoria.

The Committee have the honour to report as follows:

THE REFERENCE

1. The proposal referred to the Committee involves the construction of
 - a combined galley and messes block; and
 - three 3-storey sleeping blocks, each of 100 cabins,for senior sailors.
2. The work is estimated to cost \$1.9 million.

THE COMMITTEE'S INVESTIGATION

3. The Committee received written submissions and drawings from the Departments of the Navy and Works and took evidence from their representatives at a public hearing in Canberra. We inspected the facilities at H.M.A.S. Cerberus and the sites for the proposed buildings.

H.M.A.S. CERBERUS

4. Functions The principal training establishment of the Royal Australian Navy is H.M.A.S. Cerberus at Westernport, Victoria where under the Commodore, Superintendent of Training, the following training divisions are conducted:

Officer	Seamanship
Academic	Communications
Naval Education Service	Supply and Secretariat
Instructional Administration and Technique	Medical and Dental
Adult Male Recruit Training and Junior Musician	Nuclear, Biological, Chemical Warfare
Gunnery	Defence and Damage Control
Weapon and Electrical Engineering	Musician
Marine Engineering	Management
	Physical
	W.R.A.N.S.

5. The annual training output of H.M.A.S. Cerberus is about 4,500 officers and ratings.

6. Facilities The original building development at H.M.A.S. Cerberus commenced in permanent construction in 1912. Subsequently, a good deal of building has taken place, some of a temporary nature during World War II and in permanent materials since then. The most recent references dealt with by the Committee at H.M.A.S. Cerberus concerned the construction of four barracks blocks for junior ratings in 1964 and instructional buildings in 1969.

7. Master Plan A master plan agreed between the Departments of the Navy and Works has been used since 1960 as the basis for long term development and in it space has been allocated for domestic accommodation, administrative purposes, supply, academic and technical instruction, amenities and medical purposes.

8. Development since then has generally been in accordance with the master plan. This has included barracks blocks for junior ratings, modernisation and extension of the wardroom, W.R.A.N.S.' accommodation, new stores and extensions to the electrical and signals schools.

THE NEED

9. Senior sailors (or chief petty officers and petty officers) at H.M.A.S. Cerberus are accommodated in two main buildings and one toilet and ablutions block having a total area of approximately 43,000 sq. ft. Two of the buildings were erected in 1925 and the third in 1936. All are of brick construction with iron roofs and have timber floors except for ablutions and toilet areas where they are concrete.

10. These buildings are no longer satisfactory for the purpose for which they were built and are being used. Not only has the complement of senior sailors increased to a point where there is insufficient room for them all but the accommodation is now substandard, and certainly does not comply with the Services Scales and Standards of Accommodation. Furthermore, there is no accommodation which future expected increases in complement can occupy.

11. The present accommodation could possibly be refurbished to provide a portion of the space required if the standards are to be observed but a good deal of new construction would also be needed. The site arrangements are not conducive to a new building being satisfactorily erected in the vicinity of the present ones.

12. The Committee noted that the current complement of chief petty officers and petty officers at H.M.A.S. Cerberus is 120 and 141 respectively. By 1974, it is expected that these figures will increase to 157 and 177 and that there will be another 36 and 118 respectively under training.

13. The Committee concluded that as the present accommodation is inadequate for current needs, is unable to provide for future growth and is incapable of satisfactory upgrading and extension, the most economic and reasonable remedy will be to construct a new sleeping, messing and amenities complex for senior sailors. There is therefore a need for the work in this reference.

14. We noted that the accommodation now proposed is a further phase in a programme designed to progressively upgrade living and amenities facilities for junior ratings, officers and W.R.A.N.S. at H.M.A.S. Cerberus.

THE PROPOSED BUILDINGS

15. Design and Standards The design provides for a co-ordinated complex of buildings with separate dining, recreation and sleeping facilities for both petty officers and chief petty officers. The central galley, amenities and mess block will be linked to three identical sleeping blocks, each of 100 cabins and will be conveniently situated adjacent to Cook Road for ease of access by users and services. Car parks will be located to avoid cross traffic near the sleeping blocks. There is provision in the design for expansion of the facilities for an increase in establishment.

16. The senior sailors component of the complement of H.M.A.S. Cerberus is mentioned in paragraph 12. Whilst those under training are required to live in, it has been found that a percentage of the remainder live out thus reducing the demand for facilities for them. There is, however, still a requirement for some of the living out complement to eat at either of the

seniors' messes and for recreation, ablutions and change facilities. The extent of the facilities now proposed is scaled on this basis.

17. The Committee noted that the facilities proposed accord with the Services Scales and Standards of Accommodation.

18. Siting The Committee were informed that the siting of the complex complies with the master plan and is compatible with possible future development in the vicinity. The site adjoins buildings with similar functions and is convenient to working and recreation areas.

19. The Committee consider that the site selected is suitable.

20. Galley, Mess and Recreation Block This single-storey block will be some 310 ft long by 85 ft wide. The galley is based on a standard 251-400 man layout and will serve approximately 124 chief petty officers and 230 petty officers in separate dining rooms which can be combined when necessary. Recreational facilities include bars, games, T.V. and ante rooms, and visitors' lounges. Provision is also to be made for locker and change rooms, toilets and showers for some 90 members of each mess who are likely to live out. All sections of dining and recreational facilities have been planned to facilitate future expansion.

21. Sleeping Blocks Three separate but identical 3-storey sleeping blocks each of 100 cabins are proposed to accommodate 100 chief petty officers and 200 petty officers. Each block will have laundry facilities and each floor, toilet and other facilities in accordance with the standards. The buildings are to be U-shaped around a semi-enclosed courtyard, landscaped for outdoor living. Most cabins will look over the courtyard and the service core, with toilets etc., will face to the south. The cabins will have built-in beds,

wardrobes and a drawer unit. A syndicate room for study purposes will be located in each block adjacent to the main entry.

22. Construction and Materials The galley and messes block will be of brick construction with structural piers supporting steel beams and trusses. The sleeping blocks will have load bearing brick walls and timber roof construction. Roofs will be tiled and floors will be concrete. Covered ways will be of metal construction, glazed for weather protection and with a metal deck roof.

23. External walls will be face brickwork to match buildings in the vicinity and door and window frames will generally be aluminium. Spandrel panels under windows will be precast exposed aggregate concrete to contrast with the brickwork.

24. Internal finishes will be selected to provide a durable but low maintenance cost finish. In the galley and messes block, floors will generally have either vinyl or quarry tiles. However, the dining halls will be parquetry timber tiled and the ante and recreation rooms carpeted. The plant areas will have a granolithic finish and the toilets will be ceramic tiled. Where appropriate, internal walls will be face brick. Elsewhere, they will be rendered and painted, plastered or ceramic tiled. Ceilings will be mainly plasterboard, but suspended acoustic tiles will be used for the dining halls and ante rooms, and painted fibrous plaster in the galley area and toilets.

25. We noted that in the sleeping blocks, it is proposed that the floors of the cabins and corridors will have a vinyl finish, the stairs either granolithic or quarry tiles and the wet areas, granolithic or ceramic tiles. Walls will be face brick except in the cabins, laundries and toilets, and drying rooms which will be rendered and painted, ceramic tiled and cement rendered respectively. Ceilings will

be mainly sprayed acoustic vermiculite, but rendering or asbestos cement will be used in laundries, drying rooms and toilets.

26. Mechanical Services The galley and the messes will be heated by automatic low pressure water boilers and mechanically ventilated. Hot water radiators will be used in cabins.

27. Other mechanical services will include laundry and drying room equipment, galley and refrigeration equipment, and L.P. gas cooking equipment.

28. Electrical Services Electricity supply will be reticulated from a substation in the galley service yard. Lighting and power services will be in accordance with the standards and will include lighting for access roads and car parks.

29. Hydraulic Services The complex will be connected to the existing water supply and sewerage reticulation.

30. Fire Protection An early warning alarm system serving the whole complex will be installed and hydrants, hoses and extinguishers will be provided as required.

31. Civil Works Road connections to the sleeping block car parks and the galley service yard from Cook Road will be provided. Roads and car parks will have concrete kerbs and channels and will be bituminous concrete surfaced. Landscaping in the vicinity of the buildings will include lawns, shrubs and trees for screening and beautification and paths and paving.

32. Committee's Conclusion Subject to the recommendations which follow, the Committee recommend the construction of the work in this reference.

OTHER OBSERVATIONS

33. Ablutions facilities are to be provided in the messes building for senior sailors who live outside the depot to change when coming from or returning home. These facilities include a locker room, showers and toilets.

34. As the Services Scales and Standards set no standard for showering facilities for senior sailors who live out, the Committee noted that the principles laid down in the New South Wales Factories Act are proposed to be followed. On investigation, however, we found that the number of showers to be provided in this reference does not comply with the New South Wales Act and falls short of requirements. We therefore recommend that further consideration be given to the design of the messes building to ensure that adequate showers are provided.

FLOOR COVERINGS

35. The Committee noted that it is proposed to use a vinyl floor covering in the sleeping blocks in accordance with the established practice. We have, however, been examining the substitution of carpet for vinyl in a number of other references recently and on this occasion were told that an examination is being made of the possibility of using carpet in Services establishments.

36. The information given to the Committee suggests that in most circumstances, there is little to choose economically between the two materials and as the carpet brings with it a greater degree of comfort and acoustic qualities, we favour its use in sleeping blocks. We therefore concluded that if it is economically feasible, carpet should be used as a floor covering in the sleeping blocks for senior sailors at H.M.A.S. Cerberus.

9.

ESTIMATE OF COST

37. The estimated cost of the work when referred to the Committee was \$1.9 million made up as follows:

	\$
Building works	1,200,000
Engineering works	<u>700,000</u>
	<u>1,900,000</u>

PROGRAMME

38. It is expected that after an approval to proceed is given, the preparation of final drawings and tender documents will take 9 months. Construction time for the work is estimated at 15 months after a contract is let.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

39. The summary of recommendations and conclusions of the Committee is set out below. Alongside each is shown the paragraph in the report to which it refers.

	<u>Paragraph</u>
1. THERE IS A NEED FOR THE WORK IN THIS REFERENCE.	13
2. THE SITE SELECTED IS SUITABLE.	19
3. SUBJECT TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH FOLLOW, THE COMMITTEE RECOMMEND THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE WORK IN THIS REFERENCE.	32
4. FURTHER CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE DESIGN OF THE MESSES BUILDING TO ENSURE THAT ADEQUATE SHOWERS ARE PROVIDED FOR SENIOR SAILORS WHO LIVE OUT.	34
5. IF IT IS ECONOMICALLY FEASIBLE CARPET SHOULD BE USED AS A FLOOR COVERING IN SLEEPING BLOCKS FOR SENIOR SAILORS AT H.M.A.S. CERBERUS.	36

6. THE ESTIMATED COST OF THE WORK WHEN REFERRED
TO THE COMMITTEE WAS \$1.9 MILLION.



(C.R. KELLY)
Chairman

Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works,
Parliament House,
CANBERRA, A.C.T.

23 September 1970.