

by new construction and Royal Navy transfers, which included a heavy cruiser and N-class destroyers. Local shipyards had built light cruisers during World War I, but the immense commitment to repairing damage and providing maintenance for Allied units precluded production of anything more demanding than a few Tribal-class destroyers. Australian builders did produce sloops, frigates, and minesweepers as well as a reverse Lend-Lease production of small craft for the U.S. Army and Navy in the Pacific. The peak achievement of Australian construction was the fifty-six locally designed and built *Bathurst*-class minesweepers (later reclassified as corvettes). The war also saw the construction of the large Captain Cook graving dock in Sydney, capable of docking any Allied warship of the era.

TABLE 3.3 Australian Order of Battle

Ship Type	1939	1945	Wartime Loss
Heavy cruisers	2	2	1
Light cruisers	4	2	2
Destroyers	5	10	1
Frigates	0	6	0
Sloops	2	2	1
Corvettes	0	53	1

The principal strength of New Zealand's naval division was its contribution to the *Leander*-class vessels *Leander* and *Achilles*. It was intended to commission a third *Leander*; however, *Neptune*, with one-fifth of her crew New Zealanders, was lost in the Mediterranean on an Italian minefield on 19 December 1942 before she could transfer. In 1943, following damage sustained fighting alongside the U.S. Navy at the Battle of Kolombangara, *Leander* was returned to the Royal Navy and was replaced by the Colony-class cruiser *Gambia*. In 1943, New Zealand took delivery of three Bird-class antisubmarine minesweeper-corvette-style trawlers, *Kiwi*, *Tui*, and *Moa*, which subsequently operated in the Solomons. *Kiwi* and *Moa* sank the Japanese submarine *I-1* in a surface engagement on 29–30 January 1943, and *Tui* was predominantly responsible for sinking *I-17* on 19 August 1943. *Moa* was lost in a Japanese air raid on 7 April 1943. New Zealand also operated several dozen minor vessels during World War II, built to standard British designs. These included the most numerous Flower-class corvettes, *Arabis* and *Arbutus*, and four Isles-class and three Castle-class minesweeping trawlers.

During the war the Royal Indian Navy added six sloops, three corvettes, and seventeen minesweepers, and eighteen locally built minesweeping trawlers to its force. The South African Navy Service ended the war with five frigates and a corvette.