To Guy Russell,
Department of Lands

**Ex-HMAS Adelaide Starboard Hangar Wall Report**

Our dive team visited the Adelaide wreck on May 18th, 2015 shortly after two significant east Coast Lows passed through. We found that the starboard hangar wall was missing for a length of 10.5m horizontally and its full height vertically.

There are four vertical frames missing which have sheared off at their weld points to the deck. At the top of the wall the frames have sheared off the corresponding roof frames, taking the knee braces with them.

There is a loose section of wall at the forward end of the gap, which is cracked horizontally for 700mm near the top and bottom. This section was not moving in the swell, but will presumably break off in the next big swell.

The missing wall has relieved pressure on the remaining hangar as the water flow can now pass through the hangar more easily. However this effect is offset by the fact that one side of the roof is now completely unsupported. There appears to be no continuous structural beam running along the edge of the roof. I expect that the roof will tear apart without much resistance when the next significant swell hits. Hopefully it will lift off and be deposited on the seabed. If it collapses downwards it will be a significant obstruction.

I have compared the missing section to the almost identical hangar on HMAS Melbourne. The following photos show the comparisons.

Thank you for asking us to inspect this interesting vessel,

Alan McLennan, Diving Supervisor.
10 June 2015
Adelaide Stbd Hangar Wall

Remains of AC intake

Aft end of gap. Looking from inside

McLennans Diving Service

2015-05-18 13:49
Looking Forward from the inside.

This is the first intact frame forward of the missing wall. Note weld line which is the weak point that all the frames failed at.

Crack at base of wall. View from the other side shown on page 11.
Looking at Roof of Starboard Hangar - HMAS Melbourne

- The roof is intact except for the skin in this area is gone.
- These roof frames are intact.
- This frame and the next three are snapped off through this knee brace.
This shows the surviving knee brace at the roof on the fwd side of the break.
This is the edge of the upper deck above the break. There is no longitudinal beam to prevent further tearing of the roof,
Steel hull

Aluminium hangar wall

This is the forward end of the gap. This is the crack at the base of the remaining wall. There is a corresponding gap above it shown in the next photo.
This is the tear on the wall at the forward end of the gap. It matches the tear at the bottom. This section of wall will go soon.