

## Dolabella

**Dolabella** was launched in 1939 and immediately put into service on WW2 convoys. Her war service was exceptional and she remained with the same company throughout her service life of 19 years until broken up in 1958. There is further information about some of her voyages on the **Recollections** section of the Benjido website [HERE](#).

**Image 1** is from an old postcard of **Dolabella** - the date is not known.



## Career Highlights

Date	Event
15 Aug 1939	Launched
Nov 1939	Completed
Jun 1958	Broken up at Hong Kong

## Participation in WW2

**Dolabella** took part in 85 convoys according to information shown in the table below which is provided courtesy of [Convoyweb](#) - see [Ext. Ref. #5](#). The table also includes various independent voyages undertaken by this ship during the wartime period. The shaded boxes indicate in most cases that **Dolabella** continued independently after taking part in a convoy.

There are accounts of some of the early convoys on this site [HERE](#) from Stan Mayes.

Departure	Convoy/Independent	Arrival	Departure	Convoy/Independent	Arrival
Tyne, Nov 9, 1939	FS.34 (Methil - Southend)	Southend, Nov 11, 1939	Trinidad, Jul 16, 1942	Independent	Capetown, Aug 12, 1942
Southend, Nov 12, 1939	OA.34 (Southend - Dispersed)		Capetown, Aug 15, 1942	Independent	Aden, Sep 1, 1942
	Independent	Galveston, Dec 4, 1939	Aden, Sep 1, 1942	Independent	Suez, Sep 7, 1942
Galveston, Dec 7, 1939	Independent	Port Arthur, Dec 8, 1939	Suez, Sep 11, 1942	Independent	Aden, Sep 16, 1942
Port Arthur, Dec 13, 1939	Independent	Halifax, Dec 23, 1939	Aden, Sep 16, 1942	Independent	Abadan, Sep 26, 1942
Halifax, Dec 27, 1939	HXF.14 (Halifax - Liverpool)	Southend, Jan 8, 1940	Abadan, Sep 28, 1942	Independent	
Southend, Jan 19, 1940	OA.75G (Southend - to OG 15)	Port Arthur, Feb 12, 1940	Bandar Abbas, Oct 7, 1942	PA.5 (Bandar Abbas - Aden)	Aden, Oct 16, 1942
	Independent	New Orleans, Feb 19, 1940	Aden, Oct 16, 1942	Independent	Suez, Oct 22, 1942
Galveston, Feb 17, 1940	Independent	Halifax, Feb 28, 1940	Suez, Oct 26, 1942	Independent	Massawa, Oct 30, 1942
New Orleans, Feb 21, 1940	Independent	Southend, Mar 17, 1940	Massawa, Oct 31, 1942	Independent	Aden, Nov 2, 1942
Halifax, Mar 2, 1940	HX.24 (Halifax - Liverpool)	Halifax, Apr 21, 1940	Aden, Nov 2, 1942	AP.5 (Aden - Bandar Abbas)	Bandar Abbas, Nov 9, 1942
Southend, Mar 26, 1940	OA.117 (Southend - Dispersed)	Clyde, May 7, 1940	Bandar Abbas, Nov 9, 1942	Independent	Bahrein, Nov 10, 1942
	Independent	Liverpool, May 10, 1940	Bahrein, Nov 14, 1942	Independent	
New York, Apr 17, 1940	Independent	Halifax, Jun 10, 1940	Bandar Abbas, Nov 16, 1942	PA.11 (Bandar Abbas - Aden)	
Halifax, Apr 22, 1940	HX.37 (Halifax - Liverpool)	Philadelphia, Jun 13, 1940		Independent	Capetown, Dec 9, 1942
Clyde, May 9, 1940	Independent	New York, Jun 17, 1940	Capetown, Dec 16, 1942	Independent	Takoradi, Dec 28, 1942
Liverpool, May 28, 1940	OB.157 (Liverpool - Dispersed)	Halifax, Jun 21, 1940	Takoradi, Dec 31, 1942	Independent	Lagos, Jan 1, 1943
	Independent	Falmouth, Jul 4, 1940	Lagos, Jan 8, 1943	Independent	Capetown, Jan 19, 1943
Halifax, Jun 10, 1940	Independent	Liverpool, Jul 18, 1940	Capetown, Jan 23, 1943	CA.6 (Capetown - Dispersed)	
Philadelphia, Jun 16, 1940	Independent	Mombasa, Mar 12, 1943		Independent	Abadan, Feb 16, 1943
New York, Jun 18, 1940	Independent			Independent	
Halifax, Jun 21, 1940	HX.52 (Halifax - Liverpool)			Independent	
Clyde, Jul 17, 1940	Independent			Independent	Mombasa, Mar 8, 1943
Liverpool, Jul 27, 1940	OB.190 (Liverpool - Dispersed)			Independent	Mombasa, Mar 13, 1943

## Basic Data: Dolabella

**Type:** Tanker  
**Registered owners, managers and operators:**  
Anglo-Saxon Petroleum Co Ltd,  
London  
**Builders:** Hawthorne Leslie  
**Yard:** Hebburn  
**Country:** UK  
**Yard number:** 622  
**Registry:** London  
**Official number:** 167358  
**Signal letters:** N/K  
**Call sign:** GBZZ  
**Classification society:** N/K  
**Gross tonnage:** 8,142 tons  
**Net tonnage:** N/K  
**Deadweight:** N/K  
**Length:** 141.8 metres  
**Breadth:** 18.1 metres  
**Depth:** 33.8 Ft  
**Draught:** 26.6 Fr  
**Engines:** Oil engine 4 S.CSA - 8 cylinders with 25 9/16" bore and 55.5" stroke  
**Engine builders:** Hawthorne Leslie and Co  
**Works:** Hebburn, Newcastle  
**Country:** UK  
**Boilers:** N/A  
**Power:** 502 NHP  
**Propulsion:** Single screw  
**Speed:** 12 knots  
**Cargo capacity:** N/K  
**Crew:** 80 when Stan Mayes was in the crew (see below)

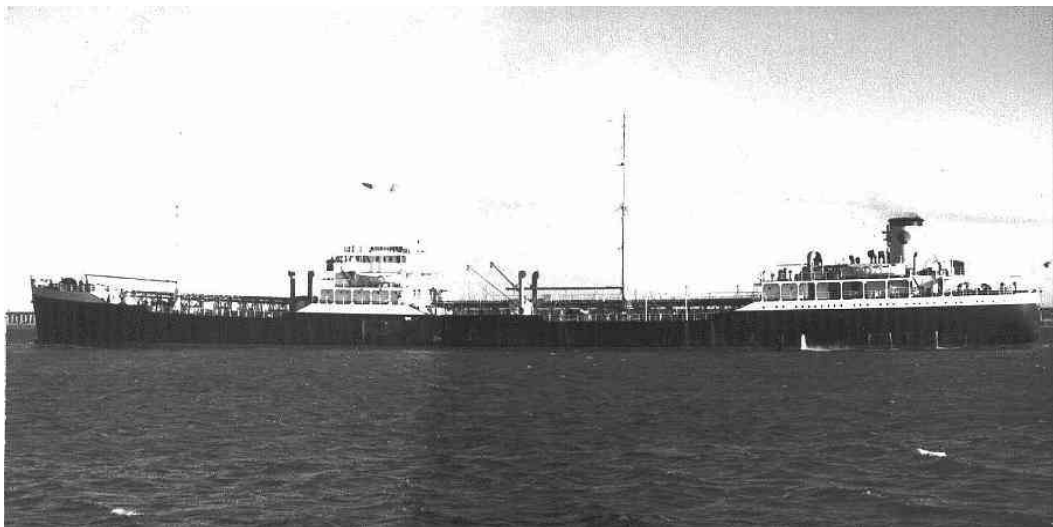
	Independent	Curacao, Aug 13, 1940	Mombasa, Mar 14, 1943	Independent	Bahrain, Mar 26, 1943
Curacao, Aug 20, 1940	Independent	Bermuda, Aug 24, 1940	Bahrein, Mar 27, 1943	Independent	
Bermuda, Aug 27, 1940	BHX.69 (Bermuda - Jd HX 69)		Bandar Abbas, Mar 29, 1943	PB.33 (Bandar Abbas - Bombay)	
	HX.69 (Halifax - Liverpool)	Clyde, Sep 11, 1940		Independent	Adelaide, Apr 28, 1943
Clyde, Sep 17, 1940	Independent	Avonmouth, Sep 23, 1940	Adelaide, May 1, 1943	Independent	Port Pirie, May 2, 1943
Avonmouth, Sep 27, 1940	Independent	Swansea, Sep 28, 1940	Port Lincoln, May 7, 1943	Independent	Talara, Jun 8, 1943
Swansea, Oct 5, 1940	Independent		Talara, Jun 10, 1943	Independent	Balboa, Jun 14, 1943
Milford Haven, Oct 6, 1940	OB.225 (Liverpool - Dispersed)		Cristobal, Jun 23, 1943	ZG.35 (Cristobal - Guantanamo)	Guantanamo, Jun 27, 1943
	Independent	Curacao, Oct 24, 1940	Guantanamo, Jun 28, 1943	GN.68 (Guantanamo - NYC)	New York, Jul 6, 1943
Curacao, Oct 29, 1940	Independent	Bermuda, Nov 2, 1940	New York, Aug 7, 1943	HX.251 (NYC - Liverpool)	Liverpool, Aug 23, 1943
Bermuda, Nov 3, 1940	BHX.86 (Bermuda - Returned To Bermuda)		Liverpool, Aug 27, 1943	ON.199 (Liverpool - NYC)	New York, Sep 10, 1943
Bermuda, Nov 10, 1940	Independent	Halifax, Nov 13, 1940	New York, Sep 16, 1943	HX.257 (NYC - Liverpool)	Liverpool, Sep 30, 1943
Halifax, Nov 14, 1940	HX.88 (Halifax - Liverpool)	Liverpool, Nov 30, 1940	Liverpool, Oct 5, 1943	ON.205 (Liverpool - NYC)	New York, Oct 23, 1943
Liverpool, Dec 16, 1940	OB.260 (Liverpool - Dispersed)		New York, Oct 31, 1943	HX.264 (NYC - Liverpool)	Clyde, Nov 17, 1943
	Independent	Aruba, Jan 4, 1941	Clyde, Nov 23, 1943	Independent	Liverpool, Nov 25, 1943
Aruba, Jan 5, 1941	Independent	Bermuda, Jan 10, 1941	Liverpool, Dec 24, 1943	ON.217 (Liverpool - NYC)	New York, Jan 10, 1944
Bermuda, Jan 13, 1941	BHX.103 (Bermuda - Jd HX 103)		New York, Jan 28, 1944	HX.277 (NYC - Liverpool)	Clyde, Feb 12, 1944
	HX.103 (Halifax - Liverpool)	Liverpool, Feb 2, 1941	Clyde, Feb 13, 1944	Independent	Loch Ewe, Feb 14, 1944
Liverpool, Feb 23, 1941	OB.290 (Liverpool - Dispersed)			WN.545 (Loch Ewe - Methil)	Methil, Feb 16, 1944
	Independent	Curacao, Mar 14, 1941	Methil, Feb 17, 1944	FS.1365 (Methil - Southend)	Southend, Feb 19, 1944
Curacao, Mar 14, 1941	Independent	Aruba, Mar 15, 1941		Independent	Sheerness, Mar 1, 1944
Aruba, Mar 20, 1941	Independent	Halifax, Mar 28, 1941	Southend, Mar 1, 1944	Independent	Southend, Mar 2, 1944
Halifax, Mar 31, 1941	HX.118 (Halifax - Liverpool)	Belfast Lough, Apr 18, 1941	Southend, Mar 3, 1944	FN.1285 (Southend - Methil)	Tyne, Mar 5, 1944
Belfast Lough, Apr 18, 1941	BB.8 (Belfast Lough - M Haven)	Dublin, Apr 19, 1941	Tyne, Mar 8, 1944	FN.1290 (Southend - Methil)	Methil, Mar 10, 1944
Dublin, Apr 25, 1941	Independent	Liverpool, Apr 26, 1941	Methil, Mar 10, 1944	EN.356 (Methil - Loch Ewe)	Belfast, Mar 12, 1944
Liverpool, May 18, 1941	OB.324 (Liverpool - Dispersed)			JW.58 (Loch Ewe - Kola Inlet)	Molotovsk, Apr 7, 1944
Halifax, Jun 2, 1941	Independent	New York, Jun 4, 1941	Kola Inlet, Apr 28, 1944	RA.59 (Kola Inlet - Loch Ewe)	Clyde, May 6, 1944
New York, Jun 12, 1941	Independent	Halifax, Jun 14, 1941	Clyde, May 24, 1944	Independent	
Halifax, Jun 16, 1941	HX.133 (Halifax - Liverpool)	Halifax, Jun 22, 1941		EBC.3 (Barry - St Helens Roads)	Seine Bay, Jun 9, 1944
Halifax, Jul 16, 1941	HX.139 (Halifax - Liverpool)	Loch Ewe, Jul 29, 1941		FCM.8 (Seine Bay - Southampton)	Southampton, Jun 18, 1944
	WN.159 (Oban - Methil)	Methil, Jul 31, 1941	Seine Bay, Jun 18, 1944	FCM.8 (Seine Bay - Southampton)	
Methil, Aug 2, 1941	FS.558 (Methil - Southend)	Southend, Aug 4, 1941		ETC.19 (Southend - Seine Bay)	Seine Bay, Jun 27, 1944
Southend, Aug 11, 1941	FN.504 (Southend - Methil)	Methil, Aug 13, 1941	Solent, Jun 27, 1944	ETC.19 (Southend - Seine Bay)	
Methil Roads, Aug 16, 1941	EC.60 (Southend - Clyde)	Loch Ewe, Aug 18, 1941	Seine Bay, Jul 10, 1944	FTC.32 (Seine Bay - Southend)	Spithead, Jul 11, 1944
	Independent	New York, Sep 1, 1941	Southampton, Jul 30, 1944	ETC.53 (Southend - Seine Bay)	Seine Bay, Jul 31, 1944
New York, Sep 14, 1941	Independent	Halifax, Sep 16, 1941		FTC.66 (Seine Bay - Southend)	Southampton, Aug 13, 1944
Halifax, Sep 22, 1941	HX.151 (Halifax - Liverpool)		Seine Bay, Aug 13, 1944	FTC.66 (Seine Bay - Southend)	
	Independent	Halifax, Oct 2, 1941		EPM.44 (Portland - Seine Bay)	Seine Bay, Aug 25, 1944
	HX.151 (Halifax - Liverpool)	Clyde, Oct 5, 1941	Southampton, Aug 25, 1944	EPM.44 (Portland - Seine Bay)	
Clyde, Oct 15, 1941	ON.26 (Liverpool - Dispersed)			not reported	Spithead, Oct 2, 1944
	Independent	New York, Nov 2, 1941	Seine Bay, Oct 2, 1944	not reported	
New York, Nov 7, 1941	Independent	Halifax, Nov 9, 1941	Solent, Oct 7, 1944	not reported	Barry, Oct 9, 1944
Halifax, Nov 15, 1941	HX.160 (Halifax - Liverpool)	Liverpool, Nov 30, 1941	Barry, Oct 12, 1944	not reported	Liverpool, Oct 13, 1944
Liverpool, Dec 7, 1941	ON.44 (Liverpool - Dispersed)		Liverpool, Oct 16, 1944	Independent	Loch Ewe, Oct 18, 1944
	Independent	Corpus Christi, Jan 2, 1942		JW.61 (Loch Ewe - Kola Inlet)	Kola Inlet, Oct 28, 1944
Corpus Christi, Jan 5, 1942	Independent	Philadelphia, Jan 13, 1942	Kola Inlet, Dec 10, 1944	RA.62 (Kola Inlet - Loch Ewe)	Clyde, Dec 20, 1944
Philadelphia, Jan 13, 1942	Independent	Hampton Roads, Jan 14, 1942	Clyde, Dec 29, 1944	ON.275 (Southend - NYC)	New York, Jan 13, 1945
Hampton Roads, Jan 17, 1942	Independent	Halifax, Jan 21, 1942	New York, Feb 4, 1945	Independent	Philadelphia, Feb 5, 1945
Halifax, Jan 26, 1942	HX.172 (Halifax - Liverpool)	Liverpool, Feb 8, 1942	New York, Feb 12, 1945	HX.338 (NYC - Liverpool)	Clyde, Feb 27, 1945
Liverpool, Feb 14, 1942	ON.67 (Liverpool - Halifax)		Clyde, Mar 12, 1945	JW.65 (Clyde - Kola Inlet)	Molotovsk, Mar 23, 1945
	Independent	Curacao, Mar 9, 1942	Kola Inlet, Apr 29, 1945	RA.66 (Kola Inlet - Clyde)	Clyde, May 8, 1945
Curacao, Mar 16, 1942	Independent	Halifax, Mar 29, 1942	Clyde, May 27, 1945	ON.305 (Southend - Father Point)	New York, Jun 11, 1945
Halifax, Apr 2, 1942	HX.183 (Halifax - Liverpool)	Belfast Lough, Apr 14, 1942	New York, Jun 14, 1945	Independent	Rotterdam, Jun 30, 1945
Belfast Lough, Apr 15, 1942	BB.162 (Belfast Lough - M Haven)	Milford Haven, Apr 16, 1942	Rotterdam, Jul 5, 1945	Independent	Southend, Jul 7, 1945
Milford Haven, Apr 16, 1942	WP.142 (M Haven - Portsmouth)	Southampton, Apr 19, 1942	Southend, Jul 9, 1945	Independent	Antwerp, Jul 11, 1945
	PW.146 (Portsmouth - M Haven)	Falmouth, Apr 26, 1942	Antwerp, Jul 14, 1945	Independent	Falmouth, Jul 15, 1945

Falmouth, May 18, 1942	PW.157 (Portsmouth - M Haven)	Milford Haven, May 19, 1942	Suez, Aug 4, 1945	Independent	Abadan, Aug 16, 1945
Milford Haven, May 21, 1942	OS.29 (Liverpool - Freetown)	Belfast Lough, May 22, 1942	Abadan, Aug 18, 1945	Independent	Durban, Sep 8, 1945
Belfast Lough, May 22, 1942	ON.97 (Liverpool - Halifax)		Durban, Sep 17, 1945	Independent	Diego Suarez, Sep 23, 1945
	Independent	New York, Jun 7, 1942	Diego Suarez, Sep 25, 1945	Independent	Abadan, Oct 5, 1945
New York, Jun 8, 1942	Independent	Lynn Haven Road, Jun 11, 1942	Abadan, Oct 7, 1945	Independent	Trincomalee, Oct 18, 1945
Hampton Roads, Jun 13, 1942	KS.510 (Hampton Roads - Key West)	Key West, Jun 18, 1942	Trincomalee, Oct 20, 1945	Independent	Abadan, Oct 29, 1945
Key West, Jun 18, 1942	Independent	Port Arthur, Jun 21, 1942	Abadan, Oct 31, 1945	Independent	Lyttelton, Dec 4, 1945
Port Arthur, Jun 25, 1942	Independent	Key West, Jun 29, 1942	Lyttelton, Dec 5, 1945	Independent	Dunedin, Dec 6, 1945
Key West, Jul 4, 1942	WAT.2 (Key West - Trinidad)	Trinidad, Jul 14, 1942	Dunedin, Dec 14, 1945	Independent	

**Image 2** shows Dolabella in the Mersey with aeroplanes destined for Russian loaded on her false deck.



**Image 3** is a postcard image showing Dolabella. Date and time not known



**Images 4 to 7** show the crew list for **Dolabella** when Stan Mayes joined her. His name appears at #21 on the list.

*Home addresses have been hidden for security purposes as the crew may have relatives at the same address. Anyone researching their family history that wants more information about one of those listed is invited to contact the website - see the Home Page for contact details.*



M.	15	L. Gray	R205879.	29	W. Heathfield
Mrs.	16	J. S. Hofferton	292133.	40	Salisbury
M.	17	W. Goldsmith	799344.	50	Abingdon
S.	18	P. Bonnell	289067.	51	London
S.	19	D. Bowles	R21877.	71	Southwark
S.	20	A. E. Jones	R214779.	73	London

		W. Daphne	17.5.44	4	4
		Jones	18.5.44	6	6
		Luscombe	17.5.44	6	6
		R. Lane	17.5.44	6	6
		W. Stenell	18.5.44	6	6
		do	do	do	do

\* If a British subject, state town or country of birth, and if born in a foreign country, should be described as

† The capacities of Engineers not employed on the Propelling Engines and Boilers should be described here and in the Certificate of Discharge as Engine Drivers, Donkeymen, etc.

‡ If any member of the Crew enters His Majesty's Service, the Name of the King's Ship into which he enters is to be stated under the head of "Career of Leaving"

\*\* An entry should be made in column 21 for every member of the Crew as follows:—(a) The number of weeks for which contributions are payable. (b) "F," where the Seaman is not an Officer whose employment is non-marital and remunerated at a rate exceeding £20 a

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Name of

PARTICULARS

Rank	No.	SIGNATURES OF CREW AND NUMBERS OF DISCHARGE BOOKS (EN. A. B.)	Age	Nationality (If British, state birthplace—see footnote)	HOME ADDRESS	Date and Place of Discharge (See Appendix)	
						Date	Place
St.	21	S. C. Mayes	R147336.	23	4rmp.	18.5.44	4rmp.
Sr.	22	R. Wood	R293879.	28	do	do	do
M.	23	E. Mann	R121502.	33	Ballarat, Aust.	do	do
St.	24	J. R. Allen	R256676.	18	Sheffield	18.5.44	do
S.	25	D. G. Hyde	R281330.	18	Darton	18.5.44	do
S.	26	E. R. Ball	R203479.	19.4.21	London	18.5.44	do
St.	27	H. Lee	R220098.	19	Kenzie	do	do
M.	29	T. B. Bailey	243266.	43	Southampton	17.5.44	4rmp.
M.	30	J. R. Lawson	R21177.	26	St. Shields	do	do
Sr.	31	R. Blackburn	R153321.	39	Altonport	do	do
M.	32	J. Scott	1028137.	40	Salisbury	do	do
M.	33	H. Dent	R75425.	31	Northfleet	do	do
Mrs.	34	P. H. Mansfield	R143626.	43	London	do	do
M.	35	J. P. Platt	R225924.	23	Buckworth	do	do
M.	36	W. Lawrence	R244972.	23	Walthamstow	do	do
S.	37	L. Webb	R5632.	26	Northport 77	do	do
S.	38	F. Gilchrist	R285344.	30.5.35	London	18.5.44	do
S.	39	W. Lee	R242207.	4.12.26	Stornoway	18.5.44	4rmp.
S.	40	P. A. Gault	R271343.	20	London	do	do

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‡ If any member of the Crew enters His Majesty's Service, the Name of the King's Ship into which he enters is to be stated under the head of "Career of Leaving"

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No.	Name	Age	Rank	Signature	Address	Signature	Address
51	Roll Snipe	30	Master	[Signature]	[Address]	[Signature]	[Address]
52	Jr. Brown	21	Lead. Hk.	[Signature]	[Address]	[Signature]	[Address]
53	William Collier	27	Painter	[Signature]	[Address]	[Signature]	[Address]
54	Norman	20	Sales	[Signature]	[Address]	[Signature]	[Address]
55	W. R. P. [?]	29	Northampton	[Signature]	[Address]	[Signature]	[Address]
56	Thomas	30	Birmingham	[Signature]	[Address]	[Signature]	[Address]
57	Geoffrey Charles	21	Bristol	[Signature]	[Address]	[Signature]	[Address]
58	Eric [?]	20	Painter	[Signature]	[Address]	[Signature]	[Address]
59	E. Breckman	33	Draught.	[Signature]	[Address]	[Signature]	[Address]
60	M. D. [?]	41	Liverpool	[Signature]	[Address]	[Signature]	[Address]

\* If a British subject, state town or country of birth, and if born in a foreign country, should be described as such in the Certificate of Discharge as Engine Drivers, Dockyardmen, etc.

† If the advance of wages is not conditional on going to sea, it should be stated under the head of "Cause of Leaving".

\*\* An entry should be made in column 21 for every member of the Crew as follows:—(a) The number of weeks for which contributions are payable. (b) "P." where the Seaman is not an Officer whose employment is non-seasonal and remunerated at a rate exceeding £20 a month.

No.	SIGNATURES OF CREW AND NUMBER OF DISCHARGE BOOK (In A/C)	Age	Nationality (If British, state birthplace—see column 2)	HOME ADDRESS	Name of last Ship with Official No. or Part of Registry and year of discharge (If more than a year previous)	Date and Place of Signing this Agreement	
						Day	Place
61	[Signature]	21	[Nationality]	[Address]	[Ship]	25/4/44	[Place]
62	[Signature]	31	[Nationality]	[Address]	[Ship]	"	"
63	[Signature]	23	[Nationality]	[Address]	[Ship]	"	"
64	[Signature]	36	[Nationality]	[Address]	[Ship]	"	"
65	[Signature]	30	[Nationality]	[Address]	[Ship]	"	"
66	[Signature]	23	[Nationality]	[Address]	[Ship]	"	"
67	[Signature]	22	[Nationality]	[Address]	[Ship]	"	"
68	[Signature]	40	[Nationality]	[Address]	[Ship]	"	"
69	[Signature]	23	[Nationality]	[Address]	[Ship]	"	"
70	[Signature]	32	[Nationality]	[Address]	[Ship]	"	"
71	[Signature]	38	[Nationality]	[Address]	[Ship]	"	"
72	[Signature]	46	[Nationality]	[Address]	[Ship]	"	"
73	[Signature]	32	[Nationality]	[Address]	[Ship]	"	"
74	[Signature]	19	[Nationality]	[Address]	[Ship]	"	"
75	[Signature]	29	[Nationality]	[Address]	[Ship]	"	"
76	[Signature]	23	[Nationality]	[Address]	[Ship]	"	"
77	[Signature]	18	[Nationality]	[Address]	[Ship]	"	"
78	[Signature]	37	[Nationality]	[Address]	[Ship]	"	"
79	[Signature]	23	[Nationality]	[Address]	[Ship]	"	"
80	[Signature]	24	[Nationality]	[Address]	[Ship]	"	"

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Service Post WW2

It is generally understood that, after the war, **Dolabella** returned to her work of transporting oil with Anglo-Saxon petroleum.

No further specific information has been discovered other than that she was broken up in Hong Kong in 1958.

If anyone has further information please contact the Webmaster - contact details are [HERE](#).