

MOSQUITO FLEET "PAYS OFF" Return Of The Last Launches

The last of the Navy's "mosquito fleet"—two launches weighing 21 tons and 17 tons respectively—would return to home waters from Western Australia as deck cargo aboard the steamer River Derwent today, said a Naval spokesman yesterday.

They are the Greika, owned by Prof. M. L. Mitchell, and Dr. A. L. Tostevin's Nyroca, which were loaned to the Navy free of charge in 1942.

The Harbors Board's 60-ton crane at Outer Harbor would be used to lift the launches from the River Derwent, into the water, and they would be towed to the Naval dock at Birkenhead for reconditioning before being handed back to their owners.

One South Australian launch, the Martindale, owned by Mr. J. T. Mortlock, sailed under its own power to operational areas in New Guinea and New Britain, where it was used as an Air Sea Rescue craft.

Among the vessels which were loaned to the Navy and have been returned or are being reconditioned, are the Utrama, also owned by Prof. Mitchell, Mr. S. R. Delmont's Para, and Wongalere, owned by Mr. T. Fisher.