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HMAS Patricia Cam wreck found

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THE Royal Australian Navy suspect they have found the wreck of HMAS Patricia Cam off the north Australian coast, a patrol boat remembered for a notorious Japanese war crime.

The wreck was detected by the sonar of navy survey ship HMAS Leeuwin off the Arnhem Land coast about 25 nautical miles north-east of Maningrida.

Northern Territory Museum curator of maritime archaeology Paul Clark said it is either the Patricia Cam or a Japanese pearl lugger mother ship sunk in 1937.

He said the only way to find out is to send divers to the site.

The 37.4 metre patrol and cargo vessel was sunk by a Japanese floatplane on January 21, 1943, with the loss of two before the plane fired on and killed other survivors in the water.

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