

RESTRICTED

H.M.A.S. DUCHESS,
at Sea.

5th September, 1965

The Flag Officer Commanding,
H.M. Australian Fleet (REAR LINK),
Fleet Headquarters,
GARDEN ISLAND, N.S.W.

Copies to: The Flag Officer Commanding, H.M. Australian Fleet,
H.M.A.S. MELBOURNE.

Commander, Far East Fleet (2).

Flag Officer Second in Command, Far East Fleet.

H.M.A.S. DUCHESS - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS -
AUGUST, 1965

Sir,

I have the honour to report the proceedings of H.M.A.S. DUCHESS for the month of August, 1965.

2. On Sunday 1st August, H.M.A.S. DUCHESS was berthed port side to alongside TOBRUK at the north end of Cruiser Wharf, Garden Island.

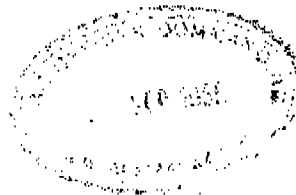
The long self maintenance and long leave period, which began on 5th July, 1965, expired on this day.

3. At 0805 on Monday 2nd August, H.M.A.S. DUCHESS cast off and proceeded to sea with H.M.A.S. VENDETTA (Commander D.W. LEACH, R.A.N.) in company for exercises during the following three days in the Sydney-Jervis Bay area in accordance with "SQUARE DANCE". Throughout this period appropriate members of the Fleet Staff were embarked to conduct Gunnery, T.A.S., N.B.C.D., and Communications Efficiency Tests and Departmental evaluations.

On Wednesday 4th August, the A.I.O. Efficiency Test was carried out during the forenoon. The ship was also topped up with ammunition. At 1311K H.M.A.S. DUCHESS was moved by tugs to Pitting Out Wharf, Garden Island and secured port side to H.M.A.S. VENDETTA at 1330K.

5. At 1100K on Friday 6th August, you called, Sir, for an informal walk round H.M.A.S. DUCHESS and then addressed the combined Ship's Companies of H.M.A. Ships DUCHESS and VENDETTA.

From Friday 6th August until Tuesday 10th August, the time was spent in final preparations for the ships departure for the Far East Station and service in the Commonwealth Strategic Reserve.



-2-

6. At 0900K on Tuesday 10th August, H.M.A.S. DUCHESS was moved by tugs and secured port side to alongside Fitting Out Wharf, forward of H.M.A.S. VENDETTA.

7. At 1000K on Wednesday 11th August, H.M.A.S. DUCHESS cast off and proceeded from Sydney, with H.M.A.S. VENDETTA in company, for the passage to the Far East Station. As this was the third such passage this year the ships departure did not attract as much attendance from farewelling next of kin as normally associated with such an event.

8. At 0800K on Friday 13th August, H.M.A. Ships DUCHESS and VENDETTA rendezvoused with H.M.A.S. ANZAC (Commander I.H. NICHOLSON, R.A.N.) with you, Sir, embarked, to the eastward of Hervey Bay.

An A.A. shoot was then conducted by both ships at a Pilotless Target Aircraft launched by H.M.A.S. ANZAC. The shoot was delayed in the initial stages by two P.T.A. flight failures, however the third flight gave good value until it was splashed due to damage by gunfire from 'B' turret.

9. On completion of the firings H.M.A. Ships DUCHESS and VENDETTA rendezvoused with H.M.A.S. SUPPLY (Captain W.J. DOVERS, D.S.C., R.A.N.) and refuelled before taking final departure from the Australian Coast.

10. Throughout the passage during the remainder of the month exercises as shown in Appendix 'C' were carried out and apart from these nothing of event occurred.

Both ships passed through the Jomard Entrance at 2000K on 16th August and then passed north of Kiriwina Island and through Vitiaz Strait to arrive at Seeadler Harbour at 0830K on Wednesday 18th August.

11. On arrival in Seeadler Harbour a workboat was made available by the Naval Officer in Charge, New Guinea (Acting Commander C.J. SCHEITZER, R.A.N.) for the purpose of exercising the ships KUMFIT boarding party. After giving the boat and crew the appropriate treatment H.M.A.S. DUCHESS berthed starboard side to alongside the jetty at Lombrum Point at 0940K to refuel. During the day the ship's landing and demolition parties were exercised and the opportunity taken to progress instruction for backward swimmers. Sports teams were also landed and their results are shown in Appendix 'D'.

12. At 1830K that evening an official cocktail party was given on board by both ships on the forecastle of H.M.A.S. DUCHESS.

13. At 0710K Thursday 19th August, H.M.A.S. DUCHESS cast off and followed H.M.A.S. VENDETTA to the anchorage off Lombrum Point. This was considered necessary to escape the strength of the prevailing south east wind which rises during the forenoon.

14. While at anchor both ships exchanged boarding parties and then weighed at 1000K for passage to the Tawau area.

15. At 1800I on Saturday 21st August both ships assumed the third degree of A/A and A/S readiness and at 0530HI On Sunday 22nd August chopped to the operational control of the Commander, Far East Fleet (Vice Admiral, Sir, Frank TWISS, K.C.B., D.S.C., RN).

-3-

16. At 1000IK on Monday 23rd August, a rendezvous was made with H.M.A. Ships YARRA (Captain J.H. LOXTON, R.A.N.) and PARRAMATTA (Commander R. PERCY, R.A.N.).

Turnover notes and publications were then passed and unofficial Chinese embarked. All ships finally continued with their respective passages at 1200IK.

17. A rendezvous was made with R.F.A. TIDEREACH at 0700H on Wednesday 25th August to the south of Sibutu Passage and both ships refuelled abeam simultaneously. On completion R.F.A. TIDEREACH was detached and H.M.A. Ships DUCHESS and VENDETTA proceeded via Malowali Passage for Singapore Naval Base.

On arrival H.M.A.S. VENDETTA berthed first, starboard side to at No.6 berth, and H.M.A.S. DUCHESS on her at 1045GH Saturday 28th August.

18. During the remainder of the forenoon, and in company with the Captain, H.M.A.S. VENDETTA, I called on the Commander, Far East Fleet, Vice Admiral, Sir Frank TWISS, K.C.B., D.S.C., the Chief of Staff to the Commander, Far East Fleet, Rear Admiral D.H. MASON and the Admiral Superintendent Rear Admiral R.C. PAIGE.

19. At 1130GH on Monday 30th August, The Commander, Far East Fleet addressed the confined Ship's Companies and later met officers and senior sailors personally.

20. During Monday 30th August the Command Team and Heads of Departments were briefed on the general situation by the Fleet Staff.

21. At 0815GH on Tuesday 31st August, H.M.A.S. DUCHESS cast off and proceeded to carry out patrol duties in Malacca Strait and at the end of the month was patrolling in the vicinity of CAPE RACHADO as C.T.C. of a patrol group which included H.M.A.S. IBIS and K.D. ~~31~~ LEDANG.

22. The condition of the ship and conditions on board are satisfactory. The health of the ship's company generally is good and conduct and morale remains good.

I have the honour to be

Sir,

Your obedient servant

I.H. Burnside
(I.H. Burnside)
Commander, R.A.N.
CAPTAIN.