

at Sea.
April 1st 1962.

The Flag Officer Commanding
H.M. AUSTRALIAN FLEET

H.M.A.S. MELBOURNE - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS - MARCH 1962

Sir,

I have the honour to report the proceedings of H.M.A. Ship under my command for the month of March, 1962.

2. MELBOURNE accompanied by H.M.A. Ships VOYAGER and QUEENBOROUGH was at sea for the first seven days of the month on passage from Fremantle to Singapore. Exercises conducted in this period included day and night flying in which interceptions, searches and rocket projectile firings were among the exercises carried out; a rapid open fire exercise, jackstay and fuel transfers, electronic warfare and surface plotting exercises, officer of the watch manoeuvres, night encounter exercise and A.A. tracking exercises also took place.
3. Flying operations ceased from P.M. Monday 5th when in the vicinity of and during the transition of Indonesian Flight Information Regions which included the passage through Sunda and Gaspar Straits.
4. QUEENBOROUGH was detached at 2300 Saturday 3rd to visit Christmas Island.
5. Divisions and Divine Service were held on Sunday 4th and the chaplains were transferred to and from VOYAGER by seaboard on this day.
6. Dawn action stations were closed up at 0600 Tuesday 6th prior to entering Indonesian territorial waters and the third degree of readiness was maintained until 0800 Wednesday 7th.
7. In the afternoon of 7th MELBOURNE was stopped for two hours to allow the ship's side to be cleaned and touched up prior to arrival at Singapore.
8. MELBOURNE secured at No.8 wharf H.M. Naval Dockyard Singapore at 0945 Thursday 8th. A reception was held in MELBOURNE at 1830 and was attended by approximately one hundred and twenty guests. A scheduled performance of 'Beat Retreat' had to be cancelled owing to unsuitable weather.
9. The Captain of the Navy, Royal Malayan Navy (Captain W.J. Dovers D.S.C., R.A.N.) called on me at 1130 Friday 9th and I had the pleasure of luncheon that day with the Commander-in-Chief Far East Air Force (Air Marshal Sir Anthony Selway K.C.B., D.F.C.) I accompanied the Flag Officer Commanding H.M. Australian Fleet to luncheon with Rear-Admiral B.C. Durant D.S.O., D.S.C., the Chief of Staff to the Commander-in-Chief Far East Station and also to dinner that evening with the Australian Commissioner (Mr. C. Jockal) During the afternoon children from the Hans Anderson Orphanage and the Singapore Spastic Home were entertained in the ship.

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