

HMAS SWAN
At Sea

2nd May 1977

The Flag Officer Commanding
HM AUSTRALIAN FLEET

For Information: The Commander THIRD AUSTRALIAN DESTROYER SQUADRON

HMAS SWAN - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS
APRIL 1977

Sir,

1. I have the honour to report the proceedings of HMA Ship under my command during the month of April, 1977. Times throughout are zone K (-10).
2. At 0001, Friday 1st April, 1977 HMAS SWAN was berthed port side to, West Dock wharf, Williamstown Naval Dockyard. At 0737 that morning, the ship cast off and proceeded to sea and Bass Strait to complete the last day of Post Refit trials in the Victorian area. That day's trials were associated with Sea Acceptance Trials for the M22 GFCS. After a series of AA tracking runs, firings were conducted against a towed Delmar target. This target was shot down on the second run and the unavailability of an immediate replacement target resulted in SWAN's return to Port Phillip. As the results of that days SATS were inconclusive, a further period of trials were to be scheduled during the remaining Post Refit trials being conducted off NSW coast later in the month. (HMAS SWAN KNA/KNH/KNQ 010352Z APR 77 refers). The Ship stopped off Fawcner Beacon, adjacent to Williamstown, at 1710 and Dockyard and trials personnel were disembarked to the waiting workboats. HMAS SWAN sailed for Sydney at 1725.
3. Steady steaming and full power work up engineering trials were conducted during the passage north. HMAS SWAN entered Sydney heads, after a 10 and a half month absence, at 0630 Sunday 3rd April, and berthed port side to, HMAS BRISBANE, at the NECW, thirty minutes later. The following afternoon the ship was cold moved to No 3 buoy and sonar assessment trials were completed that night. HMAS SWAN ammunitioned on Wednesday and completed a successful MMK10 calibration at the Rose Bay Dolphins during the morning of Wednesday 6th April. HMAS SWAN returned to the original berth on BRISBANE at 1440 that afternoon and remained there over the Easter weekend.
4. The fortnight commencing Tuesday 12th April was devoted to completing those trials requiring the facilities available in the exercise areas of Sydney/Jervis Bay. It was a busy period with particular emphasis on preparations for a live IKARA firing (SQT2) and on completing the outstanding M22 SAT G. DG ranging was completed the first day as was the first exercise minefield transit. Self noise trials took SWAN well out to sea overnight 12/13th April.

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preparation for the IKARA SQT 2, several CASEX'S were conducted with HMAS OXLEY, and , as the week progressed, HMAS STUART and aircraft from HMAS NOWRA. These exercises provided valuable 'in contact' training for the SCR crews. M23 torpedo trials were also completed during this period. (RANTAU letter 52/77/8 dated 5th April 1977 refers). During this first week both AA and surface tracking and firing serials were conducted as well as Naval Gunfire Support communications exercises. Internal NBCD training was also progressed. HMAS SWAN entered Sydney Harbour and berthed port side to, HMAS BRISBANE, on the NECW at 0830 Friday 15th April. Telemetry equipment analysis of the planned IKARA firing was embarked from HMAS PERTH that afternoon.

5. I had the honour to be present at 1130 onboard HMAS SUPPLY when you, Sir, assumed command of the Australian Fleet from RADM G.V. GLADSTONE A.O., DSC and bar on the 15th April.

6. At 1000 Monday 18th April, HMAS SWAN cast off and proceeded to sea for a second trials week. All requirements for the IKARA SQT 2 had been met by the morning of Tuesday 19th April. Small defects in the system had been identified and rectified during the SATS period, and the system had been proved correct by the repeat SAT 2's and SAT 3's conducted. HMAS SWAN and HMAS STUART rendezvoused with HMAS OXLEY at 0600 that day, with SWAN firing successfully at 1030. A failure in the attack cut off mechanism in the MK 44 practice torpedo resulted in the torpedo hitting HMAS OXLEY. The submarine surfaced and, after inspection of the minor damage caused on the after casing, permission was sought and eventually granted to continue the serial. A search of the immediate area resulted in the positive identification of torpedo water entry point debris. The exercise resumed that afternoon and HMAS STUART enjoyed a similarly successful, if not as spectacular, firing.

7. The remainder of that week concentrated primarily on gunnery serials. Successful Surface and NGS generation trials were completed, however again, despite additional AA tracking and firing serials on Friday 22nd April, AA results were insufficiently conclusive to complete the SAT 6. The latter half of that week also saw several seamanship evolutions conducted between HMAS STUART and HMAS SWAN. These exercises included towex, RAS approaches and jackstay transfers (both day and night). HMAS VAMPIRE joined HMAS SWAN for stationmaster overnight 20th/21st April. HMAS SWAN enjoyed a very exhilarating 90 minutes of OOW manoeuvres with HMAS VAMPIRE as OCS before HMAS VAMPIRE proceeded onto her scheduled EAXP serials at 0730. HMAS STUART conducted a seacat firing that Thursday forenoon using a Jindivik and tonic tow. HMAS SWAN observed and tracked the Tonic with M44 and it appears to be a good target for seacat. HMAS SWAN resumed NGS serials on completion of HMAS STUART's firing.

8. HMAS SWAN entered Sydney heads and berthed, port side to, NECW at Garden Island at 1202, Friday 22nd April. The Ship reverted to 24 hours notice for sea and commenced a self maintenance period. At 1300 Friday 29th April, notice for sea was reduced to 8 hours and HMAS SWAN assumed duties as standby Emergency ship. HMAS SWAN remained in this berth until the end of the month.

9. That last week in April was well spent with internal training and preparations being progressed towards the shake down and work up period which begins on 2nd May. Command team training was held at HMAS WATSON concurrent with a revision PWT for the ships EW sailors. Monitoring teams PWT's were completed at HMAS PENGUIN and internal training was practiced for the ships NBCD parties.

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Training Readiness Evaluations were completed that week. You conducted our Post Refit Inspection at 0830, Friday 29th April, Sir, and after addressing the ships company departed at 1025.

10. The quarterly security lecture was delivered to the ships company together with an address on the abuses of alcohol, during the forenoon of Friday 22nd April. I conducted Captains Rounds of the upper deck and the Weapons Electrical department on 2nd and 28th April respectively.

11. Once again this month has seen HMAS SWAN host many visitors. Various sections from RANPAU were well represented during the series of surface, sub-surface and machinery trials. MR C. HOLMES a producer from FILMS AUSTRALIA, enjoyed a brief but full two days in HMAS SWAN as part of his sea familiarization prior to his producing a recruiting film for the RAN. My Officers were delighted to entertain Miss Poll Hereford (from West Australia) whose prize included a day with the Navy.

12. Marine Engineering. No contamination of the feed water system has occurred since departure Williamstown Naval Dockyard, however the opportunity for repair of further tubes in the Starboard condenser has been taken when alongside.

13. Juliet turbo alternator auxiliary drive was opened after arrival at Garden Island Dockyard due to excessive noise noticed on the passage from Williamstown. The defect had originated as an overspeed trip bolt becoming dislodged and striking the drive shaft housing. The bolt and pieces of the associated spring were found lodged in the casing. The drive assembly and oil pumps have been refurbished or replaced and the unit is now operational.

14. A unsuccessful full power trial was conducted on Wednesday 20th April. Authorized Full Power was maintained for two hours and the ship averaged 29 knots.

15. Weapons Electrical Engineering. During the month of April, the ship has attempted to complete all post refit trials outstanding on departure from Williamstown. The most significant of these has been the SAT G for the M 22 GFCS which is still not complete, although considerable progress has been achieved. The DG ranging completed on 12th April was successful and regular DG challenges will be scheduled. The high point of the month was a very successful IKARA firing against HMAS OXLEY.

16. Supply and Secretariat. A major stores programme was completed during the self maintenance period covering all aspects of Victualling and Naval Stores. The non availability of a utility or truck as requested in the LOGREQ placed extra strain on the ships vehicle programme in order that urgently required stores could be picked up. This matter is being raised separately. The department continues to function well, although there have been a number of unexpected personnel movements due to HMAS SWAN's Cooks taking the opportunity to exchange postings to HMAS MELBOURNE for her Silver Jubilee deployment.

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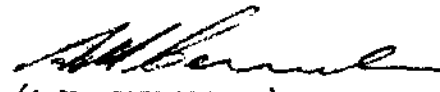
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Health, Welfare and Morale. The health and welfare of the
company remain good and their morale is high.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant



(A.M. CARWARDINE)
Commander RAN
Commanding Officer

- Enclosures:
1. Annex A. Steaming figures
 2. Annex B. Exercise Returns

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STEAMING FIGURES

1. Total miles steamed this month 2824.7
2. Total miles steamed since commissioning 191,511.3
3. Hours underway this month 208 ¹²/₆₀
4. Hours underway since commissioning 14,457 ²¹/₆₀
5. Occasions for exceeding fast routeing speed:

Date	Duration	Average Speed	Remarks
2nd	2 hours	22 kts	Steady steaming trials
	30 mins	28 kts	Full power work up trials
19th	2 hours	24 kts	
	2 hours	28 kts	Full power trials

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Annex B. to
HMAS SWAN letter 1/16/1
dated 2nd May 1977

EXERCISE RETURN

1. Seamanship

<u>Date</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
12th	Man overboards (4)
19th	RAS approaches (STUART) Towex (STUART gear)
20th	RAS approaches Jackstay transfers
21st	Stationmaster (VAMPIRE) OOW manoeuvres (VAMPIRE) RAS approaches Jackstay transfers (night and day) Swimmer of the watch (mortar (L) recoveries)

2. NBCD

12th	Minefield transit action stations
13th	NBC parties communications training DS and fire and repair party training
14th	NBC parties communications training DC and fire and repair party training
27th	Monitoring party PWT (HMAS PENGUIN)
28th	FWD and AFT DC parties drill.

3. DIVING

7th	Dive on ships hull - poker gauge check
28th	Dive at Garden Island - bottom check for obstacles

4. GUNNERY

1st	AATX AAFY SU PAC X
5th	Ammunitioned ship
13th	AATX AAFY SUTX SUFY
14th	AATX Seacat TX NGS COMEX
20th	NGS COMEX SUCAL SUTX AATX Seacat TX
1st	

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21st Seacat TX
 NGS COMEX
 NGS FX

22nd AATX
 AAFX

5. Anti Submarine

13th IKARA SAT 2
 CASEX A2
 CASEX A1/A2

14th CASEX C2
 Mortar mark 10 live firing
 CASEX A2/A3
 182 streamed

15th CASEX A2

18th IKARA SAT 2
 IKARA countdowns (2)
 IKARA SAT 3 (2)
 CASEX A2/ CASEX C2

19th IKARA SAT 2
 IKARA countdowns
 CASEX E10/E11 (live Ikara firing)

21st M.MK 10 live firing

6. 4-10

18th RFX 2

19th Relvelex (STUART)

20th Relvelex (STUART)
 JAMEX (STUART and VAMPIRE)

21st RAINEX/GOPEX
 Internal Relvelex . 12 - 22nd April

7. Communications

12th JOCOMEX 5
 NCX 201

14th NCX 455

18th JOCOMEX 3
 EWX 32, EWX 4, EWX 6, EWX 22
 EOX 455

19th NCX 453/ NCX 201
 EWX 23, EWX 5, EWX 13

20th NCX 350 (including SIG and EW personnel)
 NCX 201/202
 EWX 13, EWX 23, EWX 5.

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