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File No. 2/4/1

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

4th July, 1966.

The Flag Officer Commanding,  
H.M. Australian Fleet.

H.M.A.S. SYDNEY - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS - JUNE, 1966.

(All times local)

Sir,

I have the honour to report the proceedings of H.M.A.S. SYDNEY under my command for the month of June, 1966.

2. On Wednesday, 1st June, H.M.A.S. SYDNEY, accompanied by H.M.A.S. VENDETTA (Commander D.W. LEACH, R.A.N.), was on passage across the Western Pacific Ocean, carrying troops and equipment to South Vietnam during Operation HARDIHOOD. Exercises were carried out as permitted by the emission policy in force.
3. At 1400H on Thursday, 2nd, the Task Group rendezvoused with H.M.A.S. MELBOURNE, (Captain D.C. WELLS, R.A.N.), flying your flag, H.M.A.S. SUPPLY, (Captain N.E. McDONALD, A.D.C., R.A.N.), and H.M.A.S. YARRA, (Captain G.J. WILLIS, A.D.C., R.A.N.). Shortly before joining, you visited the ship by helicopter, arriving onboard at 1334H and departing at 1550H. During this period, the SYDNEY commenced fuelling from the SUPPLY and also transferred stores by jackstay from the port side to the YARRA. On completion of fuelling, during which the ship embarked 1,751 tons F.F.O., H.M.A.S. SUPPLY detached from the force and proceeded independently for Singapore. The remaining ships continued towards San Bernadino Strait in accordance with the amended operation order.
4. During the forenoon of Friday, 3rd, the escorts closed H.M.A.S. SYDNEY to enable photographs to be taken from a helicopter. That afternoon Task Force 327 transitted San Bernadino Strait and during the night, Verde Island Passage. During this period a most successful and professional Navy/Army concert was staged on the flight deck.
5. The ensuing two days saw the Task Force proceeding uneventfully across the China Sea, to rendezvous with H.M.A.S. DERWENT, (Commander J.D. STEVENS, R.A.N.), at 0800H on Monday, 6th. Shortly thereafter, Sir, you detached in the flagship with the YARRA in company and I assumed tactical command of the Task Group.
6. At 1530H that afternoon H.M.A.S. SYDNEY anchored in the assigned berth off Cap St. Jacques, whilst the DERWENT and VENDETTA anchored in the vicinity. Unloading was commenced almost immediately, but was hampered by delays in flying off the RAAF Iroquois helicopters and shortages of

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landing craft and of tugs to move dumb lighters. It had originally been planned to land troops on the arrival day, but owing to the later arrival time the troops remained onboard until the following day.

7. On Tuesday, 7th, I was able to give a luncheon party for senior officers of various services, notably Major General K. MACKAY, M.B.E., Commander, Australian Forces, Vietnam, Lieutenant General TRAN NGOC TAM, Chairman of the Free World Military Assistance Organisation, Rear Admiral N.G. WARD, U.S.N., Commander, Naval Forces, Vietnam, Brigadier General R.T. KNOWLES, Chief of Staff to Commander, 2nd Field Force, Group Captain W.M. COOMBES, Australian Air Attaché and Colonel R.J. COOK of the Free World Military Assistance Organisation. Before luncheon, my guests visited the fore-castle to watch a Vietnamese entertainment group of dancers, singers and musicians perform for the Ship's Company. The entertainment was arranged for the ship by General TAM, and proved an outstanding success.

8. Whilst I was entertaining onboard, some officers led by Commander LEACH flew ashore to lunch with Lieutenant Colonel HO NHUT QUANG, the Military Mayor of Vung Tau.

9. After luncheon, I flew ashore with Major General MACKAY to visit briefly the Australian Forces Field Headquarters and their Logistic Support Area at Vung Tau.

10. The escorts were sailed at 0815H on Wednesday, 8th, to patrol to seaward of the anchorage. However, delays occurred and unloading was not finished until shortly before noon when the ship weighed and proceeded. The DERWENT was fuelled during the afternoon, and detached for Singapore Exercise Areas when clear of the Market Time Area whilst the SYDNEY and the VENDETTA proceeded for Hong Kong.

11. On the passage to Hong Kong conditions were extremely hot in the ship owing to the following wind and a zig zag was resorted to to gain some cross wind.

12. At 1400H on Saturday, 11th, H.M.A.S. SYDNEY entered Hong Kong harbour through Lei U Mun Pass in poor visibility due to heavy rainstorms. The VENDETTA entered harbour at 1330I berthing at North Wall, Victoria Basin, and the SYDNEY secured to No. 2 Buoy. H.M.S. EAGLE, (Captain J.C.Y. ROXBURGH, D.S.O., D.S.C.-R.N.) sailed from No. 1 Buoy early on Monday, 13th, and the SYDNEY then carried out a shift to No. 1 Buoy under own power. Thus the maintenance period did not commence very auspiciously, with the ship remaining hot for three days, and torrential rain falling over the same period.

13. I had landed Lieutenant D.A. PICKFORD, R.A.N. at Cap St. Jacques to proceed ahead to Hong Kong to liaise with H.M.S. TAMAR and the contractors for the work to be carried out by local labour. After a slow start caused by disruption of public transport work was progressed. Further details are given in the Technical section.

14. During the period in Hong Kong, most calls were considered paid and returned owing to the state of emergency caused by the rains, and it was also necessary to cancel the combined ship's cocktail party to be given by the SYDNEY and

...../and

the VENDETTA.

15. On Sunday, 12th, I attended a reception given by Vice Admiral HAYLEY, Commander, Seventh Fleet, and officers of his flagship, U.S.S. OKLAHOMA CITY. On Tuesday, 14th, I lunched with Vice Admiral Sir Frank TWISS, KCB, DSC, Commander Far East Fleet, in his flagship, H.M.S. HAMPSHIRE, (Captain F.W. HAYDON, D.S.C., R.N.). On Sunday, 19th, I entertained Mr. P. SEARCY, O.B.E., the Senior Australian Trade Commissioner, Commodore F.D. HOLFORD, D.S.C., Commodore Hong Kong, and their families to luncheon.

16. At 1000I on Monday, 20th, once again in rain, H.M.A.S. SYDNEY slipped from No. 1 Buoy and proceeded out of harbour, being followed 30 minutes later by the VENDETTA. When clear of the coast, the weather improved and Balintang Channel was transitted on the afternoon of Tuesday, 21st, in perfect conditions. At this stage reports of the build up of a tropical depression in the Caroline Islands were being received from Tokyo Weather Broadcast. It was decided, therefore, to pass south of the Palau Islands to keep clear of the depression. This depression built up into Typhoon KIT and on Friday, 24th, the force passed 300 miles south of its centre, being effected by winds gusting to 45 knots and almost continuous rain. Seas remained moderate and the ships comfortably maintained passage speed. By late evening on Friday, 24th, weather conditions were back to normal.

17. On Wednesday, 22nd, five General List Midshipmen were examined by a Board of Ship's Officers, five second class passes being obtained. A detailed report has been forwarded under separate cover.

18. On Sunday, 26th, both Chaplains and Midshipman G.L. PURCELL, who was being sent on seasonal leave before being posted to the United States for exchange service, were transferred by jackstay to the VENDETTA, to remain onboard overnight until arrival at Manus Island.

19. At 0700K on Monday, 27th, mail was transferred to the VENDETTA who entered harbour and secured alongside Lombrum Jetty at 0830K. The SYDNEY embarked the liaison officer off No. 2 Buoy at 0930K, and anchored in the fuelling berth at Sabukaleo Point.

20. I was entertained to luncheon by the Naval Officer-in-Charge, New Guinea, Commander C.J. SCHMITZER, R.A.N., and in the evening both ships gave a cocktail party onboard the VENDETTA for the local civilian and naval population. A large party of sailors was landed during the afternoon to swim at Paradise Beach, a full sporting programme as shown in Appendix "C" was arranged, and the hospitality of the Senior and Junior Ranks Clubs were extended to privileged leave men in the evening.

21. At 0945K on Tuesday, 28th, both ships proceeded from Manus, having been fortunate enough to embark surface mail from the M.V. MONTORO which anchored in the harbour during the night. Once clear of the port, Commander LEACH assumed tactical command, and the unit transitted Vitiaz Strait that evening and entered the Solomon Sea. During the day a Surface Throw Off firing was carried out by the VENDETTA

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but a planned torpedo firing exercise was cancelled due to the conditions being unsuitable for recovery. At 2200K on Wednesday, 29th, I resumed tactical command.

22. The last day of the month found both ships approaching China Strait during the forenoon. A scheduled replenishment was advanced from the afternoon so that fuelling could take place in enclosed waters, as conditions in the Coral Sea were expected to be poor. The fuelling was completed in the eastern approaches to Milne Bay, and the ships entered China Strait at 1130K. A signal was sent early in the morning informing the District Commissioner of our passage time, and Samarai appeared to turn out in force to see us pass.

23. After entering the Coral Sea, the VENDETTA was detached so that both ships could carry out economical steaming trials independently.

#### CONDITION OF THE SHIP.

24. (a) Engineering. Main and Auxiliary machinery performed satisfactorily throughout the month. An economical steaming trial commenced on 30th June, 1966.

(b) Hull. Represervation of watertight compartments, ballast and trimming tanks was progressed during the self-maintenance period in Hong Kong. The covers of the catapult track and hold back rack were removed and areas stripped and painted. However some 60% of the work necessary in lower compartments remains outstanding and it is considered that the further use of contract labour is the only satisfactory method by which it can be completed.

(c) Electrical. All electrical equipment performed satisfactorily during the month and no major defects occurred.

#### TRAINING.

25. Common Sea Training has been progressed satisfactorily. Phase 2 of Operation HARDIHOOD caused only minor interruption to instruction during loading, passage and unloading phases.

26. 104 Ordinary Seamen completed Common Sea Training tests during the month. There were no failures.

27. A second series of Character Guidance Lectures will be completed by 4th July, as a result of which all Ordinary Seamen will have received eight 75 minute lectures from the Chaplains.

28. Higher Ranks. Instruction for Section 1 Promotion Board for Leading Rank has been progressed during the month and a total of 30 Able Ranks will be examined on 1st July.

#### HEALTH AND MORALE.

29. The health of the Ship's Company remained good throughout the month and no major illnesses amongst either the Ship's Company or embarked troops occurred.

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...../occurred.

30. A programme of cockroach control has been in force during the month. Although progress has been made the results are rather disappointing and are being reported on in other papers.

31. The morale of the Ship's Company remains at a high level. The behaviour of the Ship's Company at Hong Kong was good, and the visit greatly helped to maintain morale after much seetime and hard work.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,



(A.M. SYNNOT)  
CAPTAIN.

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APPENDIX "A" TO H.M.A.S. SYDNEY'S REPORT OF  
PROCEEDINGS FOR JUNE, 1966.

STEAMING APPENDIX.

(a) Distance steamed during the month	6,973.2
(b) Hours underway during the month	442
(c) Total distance steamed since recommissioning	98,480.5
(d) Total hours underway since recommissioning	6,761
(e) Occasions of exceeding economical speed.	
(a) Number of hours economical speed exceeded :	93 27
(b) Average speed	17.7 19.5
(c) Fuel expended for all purposes per hour	651 227
(d) Distance run per ton of fuel	2.3 2.1
(e) Reason and Authority - Operation HARDIHOOD.	

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APPENDIX "B" TO H.M.A.S. SYDNEY'S REPORT OF  
PROCEEDINGS FOR JUNE, 1966.

EXERCISES.

SEAMANSHIP

Jackstay transfer (Supplying)	22nd (2) 30th.
(Receiving)	26th.
RAS approaches	22nd.
RAS (Supplying)	1st, 8th, 9th, 22nd, 25th, 30th.
(Receiving)	2nd.
OOW manoeuvres	9th, 10th, 21st, 29th.
Steering Gear breakdown	20th, 25th.
MOW/AOOW manoeuvres	23rd, 28th.
Exercise seaboats	9th(2), 20th, 22nd.

GUNNERY

SUTF	1st.
ROFK	1st, 22nd.

A.I.O.

SPX (B)	9th, 10th, 21st, 23rd, 29th.
CLAPEX	22nd, 23rd.
REL/VEL	21st, 22nd, 23rd, 28th, 30th.

N.B.C.D.

Minor NBCDX	30th.
Section drills	22nd, 23rd, 28th, 29th.
Cleansing Station drills	21st, 24th.

T.A.S.

Operation Awkward	6th, 7th, 8th.
Diving exercise	16th, 17th, 27th.
Demolition team exercise	27th.

COMMUNICATIONS.

Comprehensive exercise programme each forenoon at sea.

ENGINEERING

Commenced economical steaming trial	30th.
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APPENDIX "B" - SHIP MOVEMENTS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>MOVEMENT</u>
Tues 2	0741	Anchored Seeadler Harbour.
	1439	Sailed from Manus.
Tues 9	0700	Anchored Vung Tau.
	1400	Sailed from Vung Tau.
Fri 12	0908	Berthed at Sattahip, Thailand.
	1613	Sailed from Sattahip, Thailand.
Sun 14	1257-	Replenishment with R.F.A. RESURGENT
	1354	
Mon 15	0750-	Replenishment with R.F.A. TIDESURGE
	1115	
Sat 20	0730	Mail transfer, Darwin Area.
Tues 23	1000	Anchored west of Orpheus Island.
	1156	Proceeded from Orpheus Island area.
	1400	Personnel helicopter transfer from Townsville.
Fri 26	0801	Berthed at Garden Island, Sydney

APPENDIX "C" - EXERCISES CARRIED OUT DURING THE MONTH

<u>EXERCISE</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>DATES</u>
1. <u>GENERAL</u>		
Action Stations	1	8.
Defence Stations	26 hrs.	8, 9.
Emergency Stations	2	9, 18.
Leaving Ship Stations	1	9.
Man overboard	6	1, 4, 7, 11, 15, 18.
Steering breakdowns	3	4, 8, 18.
Light jackstay transfers	2	7, 11.
R.A.S. Supplying	2	7, 11.
R.A.S. Receiving	1	15.
Seaboats drills	2	11, 13.
O.O.W. Manoeuvres	4	1, 10, 11.
R.A.S. Leap frogs.	3	8, 10, 13.
2. <u>GUNNERY</u>		
SUCRF	2	3, 8.
AACRF	1	8.

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APPENDIX "C" TO H.M.A.S. SYDNEY'S REPORT OF  
PROCEEDINGS FOR JUNE, 1966.

SPORT.

1. Volley Ball, Deck Hockey, Basket Ball and Badminton have been played at sea. An 0.22 inter-mess rifle shooting competition is being conducted. A large sporting programme was arranged for the visit to Hong Kong but the appalling weather prevented most matches from being played. Sports results during the month were as follows:-

22nd June, 1966. - Basket Ball - SYDNEY def. VENDETTA  
42-30  
Volley Ball - SYDNEY def. VENDETTA  
(1st Team) 2-1  
Volley Ball - VENDETTA def. SYDNEY  
(2nd Team) 2-1  
27th June, 1966. - Basket Ball - SYDNEY def. VENDETTA  
50-44  
Soccer - SYDNEY def. VENDETTA  
3-1  
Tennis - SYDNEY def. VENDETTA  
23-20  
Cricket - VENDETTA def. SYDNEY  
Badminton - VENDETTA def. SYDNEY  
4-0

Combined SYDNEY/VENDETTA teams defeated TARANGAU at  
Basket Ball - 54-36, Water Polo 10-4.

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APPENDIX "D" TO H.M.A.S. SYDNEY'S REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR JUNE, 1966.

MOVEMENTS AND EMPLOYMENT.

<u>DATE FROM.</u>	<u>PLACE.</u>	<u>DATE TO.</u>	<u>EMPLOYMENT.</u>
1.6.66	Sea	6.6.66	Passage to Vietnam
6.6.66	Cap St. Jacques	8.6.66	Unloading
8.6.66	Sea	11.6.66	Passage to Hong Kong
11.6.66	Hong Kong	20.6.66	Self maintenance
20.6.66	Sea	27.6.66	Passage to Manus
27.6.66	Manus	28.6.66	Fuel
28.6.66	Sea	30.6.66	Passage to Sydney.