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HMAS SYDNEY,
at Sydney.

- 5 MAR 1968

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THE FLAG OFFICER COMMANDING,
H.M. AUSTRALIAN FLEET.

HMAS SYDNEY - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS - FEBRUARY, 1968.

Sir,

1. I have the honour to report the proceedings of Her Majesty's Australian Ship SYDNEY under my command, for the month of February, 1968. All times are local as indicated.
2. SYDNEY, with HMAS STUART in company, was on passage from Sattahip Thailand to Vung Tau, South Vietnam at the start of the month.
3. A previously scheduled replenishment at sea of STUART, close range surface firings and transfer of Army personnel to visit the escort, all took place on Thursday 1st. All exercises carried out during the month are listed in Appendix "C".
4. Defence watches were set within the Task Group at 1600(-8) on Friday 2nd and just prior to midnight both ships entered the Market Time area.
5. At 0703(-8) the following day SYDNEY anchored in A12 berth Baie de Gahn Rai. STUART, having been detached to proceed independently at 0530(-8), anchored close northeast of SYDNEY. The disembarkation of troops and the unloading of cargo progressed throughout the forenoon. Due to the CHINOOK helicopters not being available all troops were disembarked to Vung Tau by ship's LCM's. The services of a CH -54A "Skycrane" helicopter were once again available to transport vehicles from the ship to shore and also to return empty sea containers and unserviceable vehicles to the ship. On completion of the task the "Skycrane" crew were claiming a world record for the tonnage lifted by one helicopter in one day.
6. The Chief of the Naval Staff, Vice Admiral Sir Allan McNicoll C.B., C.B.R., G.M. and Major General A.L. MacDonald O.B.E., The Commander, Australian Forces Vietnam, visited the ship during unloading operations.
7. Having completed the backloading of unserviceable vehicles SYDNEY weighed anchor at 1200(-8) and shifted berth to a less hostile position south of Cap St Jacques light to complete securing for sea. I entertained my two distinguished visitors to luncheon while anchored in this alternative position.
8. At 1415(-8) my guests left the ship and twelve minutes later the ship weighed anchor and proceeded for the Singapore area, HMAS STUART remaining in company.
9. As R.F.A. GOLD RANGER had been assigned to replenish the Task Group and as SYDNEY required her complete FFO cargo, HMAS STUART was detached late during the evening of Sunday 4th to proceed to Singapore Naval Base to refuel. SYDNEY anchored in the vicinity of the Johore Shoal buoy at 0803(-8) on Monday 5th and by 0945 GOLD RANGER had secured alongside and commenced refuelling the ship. Six and one half hours were required to replenish SYDNEY.
10. While at anchor in the Singapore area I took the opportunity to call on the Commander Far East Fleet, Vice Admiral W.D. O'Brien C.B. D.S.C., and I later lunched with him at his residence.

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11. The ship sailed from the Singapore area at 1657(-8) and as SYDNEY cleared the confines of the Strait STUART rejoined from independent exercises. Course was set for the Darwin area, the ship being routed through Karámatá Strait and Wetar Strait. On Tuesday 6th at 1950(-8) STUART was detached to return to her duties on the Malayan Strategic Reserve. Commander R.G. Loosli R.A.N., lunched with me prior to STUART being detached.
12. In the approach to Darwin, at 0700(-9) on Saturday 10th mail was received from HMAS MELVILLE and the ship then continued the passage for Sydney.
13. Opportunity was taken to land Queensland libertymen at 1600(-10) on Tuesday 13th as the ship passed by Townsville. Customs officials were also embarked during the morning of Thursday 15th while in the vicinity of Cape Moreton. Helicopters from 817 Squadron were employed to carry out both of the above transfers.
14. The ship arrived at Sydney at 0800(-10) on Friday 16th and, after anchoring in Athol Bight to embark a small quantity of ammunition SYDNEY, finally berthed at the Fitting Out Wharf, Garden Island at 0933(-10). 817 Squadron helicopters were despatched to HMAS ALBATROSS for the duration of the current leave period.
15. Your flag Sir, was transferred to SYDNEY at 0800 on Monday 19th.
16. Appreciable progress was made during the month in the training of Ordinary Seamen (Various). This has permitted advancement of the course completion date for the 87 Ordinary Seamen borne, from 30th June to 19th April 1968.
17. Higher Rank training was also satisfactorily progressed. Appendix "g" lists the results of this training.
18. The main and auxiliary machinery have performed satisfactorily during the month. All defects submitted during the month have been accepted for progress during the current leave period. Contractors are investigating the defects in the starboard after LCM davits and hoisting gear.
19. The health of the ship's company has been satisfactory during the period and the advent of the leave period has provided the expected boost to morale. The Welfare Committee has met during the month.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant

D.A.H. Clarke
(D.A.H. Clarke)
CAPTAIN

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APPENDIX "A" - STEAMING FIGURES

- (A) Distance steamed during the month - 5,523.4 miles
- (B) Hours underway during the month - 346 hrs 37 mins
- (C) Total distance steamed since recommissioning - 164,513.4 miles
- (D) Total hours underway since recommissioning - 11,099 hrs 10 mins
- (E) Occasions of exceeding economical speed -

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME HOURS</u>	<u>AV. SPEED</u>	<u>FUEL USED/HR</u>	<u>DIST/TON FUEL</u>	<u>REASON</u>
3	3	18	7.5	2.4	To clear Market Time Area.
5	7	18.1	7.5	2.4	Rover 3
6	24	18	7.5	2.4	" "
7	24	18	7.5	2.4	" "
8	12	17.3	6.6	2.6	" "
10	16	18	7.5	2.4	" "
11	23½	18	7.5	2.4	" "
12	23½	18	7.5	2.4	" "
13	19	18.9	7.35	2.5	" "
14	20	19	7.35	2.4	" "
15	7	20	8.1	2.4	" "

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 APPENDIX "B" SHIP MOVEMENTS

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<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>MOVEMENT</u>
Saturday 3rd	0702(-8)	Anchored A12 berth Vung Tau
	1200-1254	Shifted berth to anchorage south of cap St. Jacques
	1427	Weighed and proceeded for Singapore Area, STUART in company.
Sunday 4th	2355(-8)	Detached STUART for Singapore Naval Base to refuel
Monday 5th	0803(-8)	Anchored Singapore Strait to refuel
	1657	Weighed anchor and proceeded for Darwin Area
	1800	STUART joined from detached duties
Tuesday 6th	1950 (-8)	STUART detached from Task Group 327.6
Saturday 10th	0700(-9)	Mail transfer in approaches to Darwin
Sunday 11th	2125(-9)	Torres Strait area
Tuesday 13th	0815(-10)	Anchored off cape Sandwich to clean ship
	1330	Weighed and proceeded
	1630	Landed Queensland libertymen at Townsville
Thursday 15th	0800(-10)	Embarked 5 Customs officials from Brisbane
Friday 16th	0831(-10) to 0900	Anchored in Athol Bight to embark ammunition
	0933	Berthed at Fitting Out Wharf, Garden Island.

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