

RESTRICTED

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

4 SEP 1965

H.M.A.S. VENDETTA - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS.

AUGUST, 1965.

All Times Local.

- APPENDICES: (A) Distance steamed and hours underway.
(B) Exercises carried out.
(C) Sport.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit the report of proceedings of Her Majesty's Australian Ship under my command, for the month of August, 1965.

2. At the beginning of the month, VENDETTA prepared for Strategic Reserve Service and completed trials and work up evaluations.
3. On Monday, 2nd August, the ship sailed, in company with H.M.A.S. DUCHESS, for "Square Dance" exercises with Fleet Staff Offices embarked, returning to Garden Island the following day.
4. Ammunitioning was completed during the forenoon of Wednesday the 4th, and VENDETTA then shifted alongside Fitting Out Wharf.
5. The ship's company attended Intelligence Lectures at the Gunnery Instructional Centre on Thursday the 6th. They were interesting and informative and the background information given was appreciated by all hands.
6. On Monday the 9th, Sir, you addressed the combined ships' companies of VENDETTA and DUCHESS.
7. VENDETTA, in company with H.M.A.S. DUCHESS, sailed at 1000 on Wednesday the 11th August, for Strategic Reserve Service. Wives and families visited the ship prior to sailing for last farewells on board and from the wharf. Both ships cleared Sydney Heads by 1040 and proceeded North to the Hervey Bay area. Exercises were carried out on passage and these appear as a separate appendix to this report.
8. During the forenoon of Friday 13th VENDETTA and DUCHESS rendezvoused with H.M.A.S. ANZAC for Pilotless Target Aircraft shoots, and after the last target had been splashed, the three ships proceeded for a rendezvous with H.M.A.S. SUPPLY. After fuelling, VENDETTA and DUCHESS proceeded North for Manun.
9. On the 14th, "B" phase: contactors of G.2. generator local supply Panel burnt out. They were replaced, but tracking occurred due to carbonisation of the Paxoline base board. The defective section of the base board was then cropped out, a new piece fabricated and fixed into place with Araldite. After drilling and trepanning, to take the fittings, the Breaker was re-assembled, and is now working satisfactorily. This was a difficult repair, calling for much ingenuity and improvisation by the electrical sailors concerned.
10. Both ships passed through the Jomard Passage into

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the Solomon Sea on the evening of Sunday 15th August.

11. Exercises were carried out daily until Wednesday 18th, when VENDETTA and DUCHESS berthed alongside in Secadler Harbour, Manus. As there was a fifteen knot wind blowing onto the jetty and no tugs were available, the outboard anchor was used for berthing and proved very useful when unberthing.

12. Fuelling completed, the ship's company took part in games and sport ashore, both intership and versus H.M.A.S. TARANGAU. A cocktail party was held on board DUCHESS that evening with a total of about 50 naval and civilian residents attending.

13. The prevailing South Easterly wind made it necessary to leave the berth at 0700 the following day, the ship anchoring in Secadler Harbour for exercises until 0900, when both ships proceeded for the Tawau area.

14. Crossing the line ceremonies were held on board on Saturday the 21st. This was a great success, and all participated with a will.

15. At 1800 both ships were darkened and the third degree of Anti Submarine and Anti Aircraft readiness was assumed until arrival in Singapore.

16. Both ships chopped to the operational control of Commander, Far East Fleet, at 0530 (-8½) on Sunday 22nd August.

16. The passage continued uneventfully until Monday 23rd when VENDETTA AND DUCHESS rendezvoused with H.M.A.S. YARRA and H.M.A.S. PARRAMATTA. Turnover notes were exchanged, our unofficial Chinese were embarked and at 1300 both groups proceeded.

17. A twenty four hour economical steaming trial was carried out on Thursday 24th, with Lieutenant R.J. Nattey (ENG)(M) R.A.N., Senior Engineer of H.M.A.S. DUCHESS acting as observing officer.

Very satisfactory fuel and food water figures were obtained and these were below those shown in the ship's performance figures for four months out of dock. Results achieved were as follows:

Main Engine Revolutions	108 R.P.M.
Displacement (Approx)	3175 Tons.
Distance run.	318 Miles.
Miles per Ton Fuel.	8.2 Miles.
Feed Water Used.	17 Tons.

18. On Wednesday 25th a rendezvous was made with R.F.A. TIDEREACH for fuel in the Tawau area. This was completed successfully and the passage to Singapore continued.

19. During the dog watches on Friday 27th, judging of a beard growing competition was carried out and I was pleased to see some of the efforts shaved off that evening.

20. The length of watches kept in the Sonar Control Room has been shortened to increase the efficiency of the operators. The system worked, three hour watches by night with two hour watches by day, appears successful. The Sonar operators liked the system, were not unduly tired after one week's operating and their alertness on watch has increased.

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21. At 1000 on Saturday 28th, the ship secured alongside at No. 6 Berth, in the Stores Basin at Singapore Dockyard, ready to commence Strategic Reserve Service.

22. I called on the Commander Far East Fleet, Vice Admiral Sir Frank Twiss, K.C.B. D.S.C. at 1100 with the Captain of H.M.A.S. DUCHESS. Calls were also made on the Chief of Staff, Rear Admiral D.H. Mason; The Admiral Superintendent, Rear Admiral R.C. Paigo; and the Captain of the Fleet Captain E.F. Gueritz, O.B.E., D.S.C.*, R.N.

23. At 1130 on Monday 30th, the Commander Far East Fleet did the Australian Division the honour of addressing both ships' companies and meeting the officers and senior sailors in each ship.

24. A comprehensive briefing on the local situation was given to the Command Teams of both ships during the afternoon of Monday 31st, by the local Operations Officer, and this was followed by an intelligence briefing by Captain Hayward-Butt, R.N.

25. After a very welcome long weekend break in Singapore, VENDETTA sailed for East Coast patrol at 1500 on Tuesday 31st.

26. The health, conduct and morale of the ship's company remains very satisfactory.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant.



(D.W. LEACH.)

COMMANDER.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY.

The Flag Officer Commanding
H.M. Australian Fleet.
 The Flag Officer Commanding
 H.M. Australian Fleet (Rear Link)
 The Commander, Far East Fleet.
 The Flag Officer Second in Command
 Far East Fleet.
 The Captain, 10 Destroyer Squadron.
 The Captain, H.M.A.S. DUCHESS.

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