

RESTRICTED

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

12 OCT 1965

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

SEPTEMBER, 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 September, 1965.

2. During the month VENDETTA steamed 7,326 miles and was at sea for 26 days.
3. On Tuesday the 31st August, VENDETTA sailed for patrol duties in the Singapore Straits, returning to Singapore Naval Base on Monday, 6th September, at 0900. The patrol was uneventful, with the hours of darkness spent underway and daylight hours at anchor. Anchorages were selected to give the opportunity to land bathing parties at Changi on Tuesday 2nd and Saturday 4th and at Jasons Bay on Sunday 5th.
4. The ship was refuelled from R.F.A. WAVE SOVEREIGN on the 4th, the Executive Officer, Lieutenant Commander M.W. Hudson, R.A.N., conning the ship. During the month the Executive Officer also brought the ship alongside and took her to sea.
5. On Monday 6th, six hours after securing at Singapore Naval Base the ship was required to sail at short notice for patrol. VENDETTA was ready to proceed at 1645 and was on passage to the patrol area by 1700. The patrol was short and uneventful, VENDETTA returning to No. 2 Berth in the Naval Stores Basin at 0900 the next day. H.M.A.S. DUCHESS berthed alongside at 1500 on return from a patrol in the Malacca Straits.
6. I was privileged to dine with Vice Admiral and Lady Twiss at Admiralty House on the evening of September 7th.
7. I called on Vice Admiral P.J. Hill-Norton, C.B., Flag Officer Second in Command Far East Fleet, on the forenoon of Thursday 9th. I also received calls from the Captains of the Australian Minesweepers at Singapore, H.M.A.S. IBIS Lieutenant Commander P.D. Campbell R.A.N.; H.M.A.S. TEAL, Lieutenant K. Murray, D.S.C., R.A.N.; and H.M.A.S. SNIPE, Lieutenant S.B.E. Courtier, R.A.N.
8. H.M.A. Ships VENDETTA and DUCHESS sailed from Singapore Naval Base on Friday 10th September and proceeded eastwards to Manus. The passage was via the Mallewali and Sibitu Channels.
9. The quarterly full power trial was carried out on Sunday 12th September between 0830 - 1015. Satisfactory figures were obtained, the average R.P.M. being 293.

AWM 78 352/7

RESTRICTED

2.

AWM 78 352/7

10. At approximately 1800 on the same day, a shrill whistle coming from the rear of the A boiler was reported. Investigation revealed that the joint on the main steam line at the lead off from the superheated header had started to blow from the spiral wound gasket. The secondboiler was connected and the Ship's Staff working in one hour shifts replaced the gasket and adjusted the hanger in ten hours. In the very hot conditions, it is considered that they performed a very creditable "Dockyard Job".
11. This matter has been report separately in the Engineer Officer's Quarterly Letter.
12. Both ships refuelled from R.F.A. GOLD RANGER on Monday 13th in the area south of Sibutu Channel. On Completion, VENDETTA and DUCHESS proceeded, exercising on passage, towards Manus.
13. The highlight of an uneventful passage occurred for the Medical Branch three days before arrival at Manus. Radio Operator A.J. Mitchell, R.62140, of H.M.A.S. DUCHESS developed acute appendicitis during the forenoon of the 15th September. His condition indicated that early operation was imperative and this was performed onboard H.M.A.S. VENDETTA, after a boat transfer. The facilities on board VENDETTA were considered better with more space in the Sick Bay for an operation of this nature.
14. Conditions were ideal for the operation, including the weather. The Medical Officer of DUCHESS performed the appendicectomy under general anaesthetic administered by VENDETTA's Medical Officer. The operation was successful and a grossly inflamed appendix removed. Subsequent convalescence was satisfactory onboard VENDETTA and the patient was ambulant when put ashore at Manus Hospital.
15. On Saturday 18th both ships berthed at Lombrom Jetty, Manus, fuelled and prepared for the passage to Cap St Jacques.
16. H.M.A.S. SYDNEY, Captain G.J.B. Crabb, D.S.C. R.A.N., anchored in Secadler Harbour on Sunday 19th to refuel, and the Captains of both escorts called on him in the evening.
17. H.M.A.S. SYDNEY escorted by VENDETTA and DUCHESS proceeded from Manus at 0600 on Monday 20th September for Operation "Tanton". The passage to Subic Bay via the San Bernadino and Verde Island Passages was uneventful, although several "false alarm" Sonar contacts kept the screen on its toes. VENDETTA and DUCHESS refuelled from SYDNEY on the 22nd September.
18. The three ships arrived at Subic Bay for fuel on Saturday 25th at 0700, sailing again at 1700 for Cap St Jacques.
19. The carrier and escorts anchored in the Saigon River on the morning of Tuesday 28th and the unloading of SYDNEY'S cargo commenced.
20. The activity of the American Forces in Vietnam was very much brought home during the short stay at anchor, with a great deal of air activity and a bombardment carried out by U.S.S. PRESTON one mile away from our anchorage.
21. Defence Watches were maintained whilst at anchor to combat any underwater attacks, and boat controls were continuous. Ship's divers carried out bottom searches at each slack water and a total of 175 scuba charges were dropped.

RESTRICTED

3.

AWM 78 352/7

22. SYDNEY's stores unloaded, I assumed tactical command of the escorts as ordered, and proceeded from the Saigon River at 0615 on Thursday 30th September. A departure screen was formed and at 0745 all three ships proceeded southwards to clear the "Market Time" patrol area, which is the U.S.N. surveillance area off Vietnam.

23. VENDETTA and DUCHESS proceeded in company with H.M.A.S. SYDNEY until completion of fuelling at 1630, when the screen detached and proceeded for Hong Kong.

24. The health, conduct and morale of the ship's company remains very satisfactory and the self maintenance period in Hong Kong is eagerly awaited by all hands.

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 Commander, Far East Fleet.
- The Flag Officer Second in Command
- Far East Fleet.
- The Captain, 10 Destroyer Squadron.
- The Captain, H.M.A.S. SYDNEY.
- The Captain, H.M.A.S. DUCHESS.