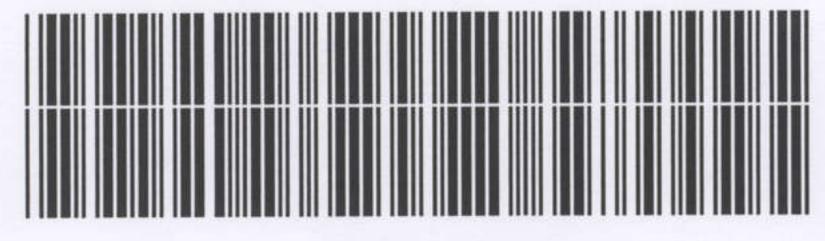
AWM78 Reports of Proceedings, HMA Ships and Establishments

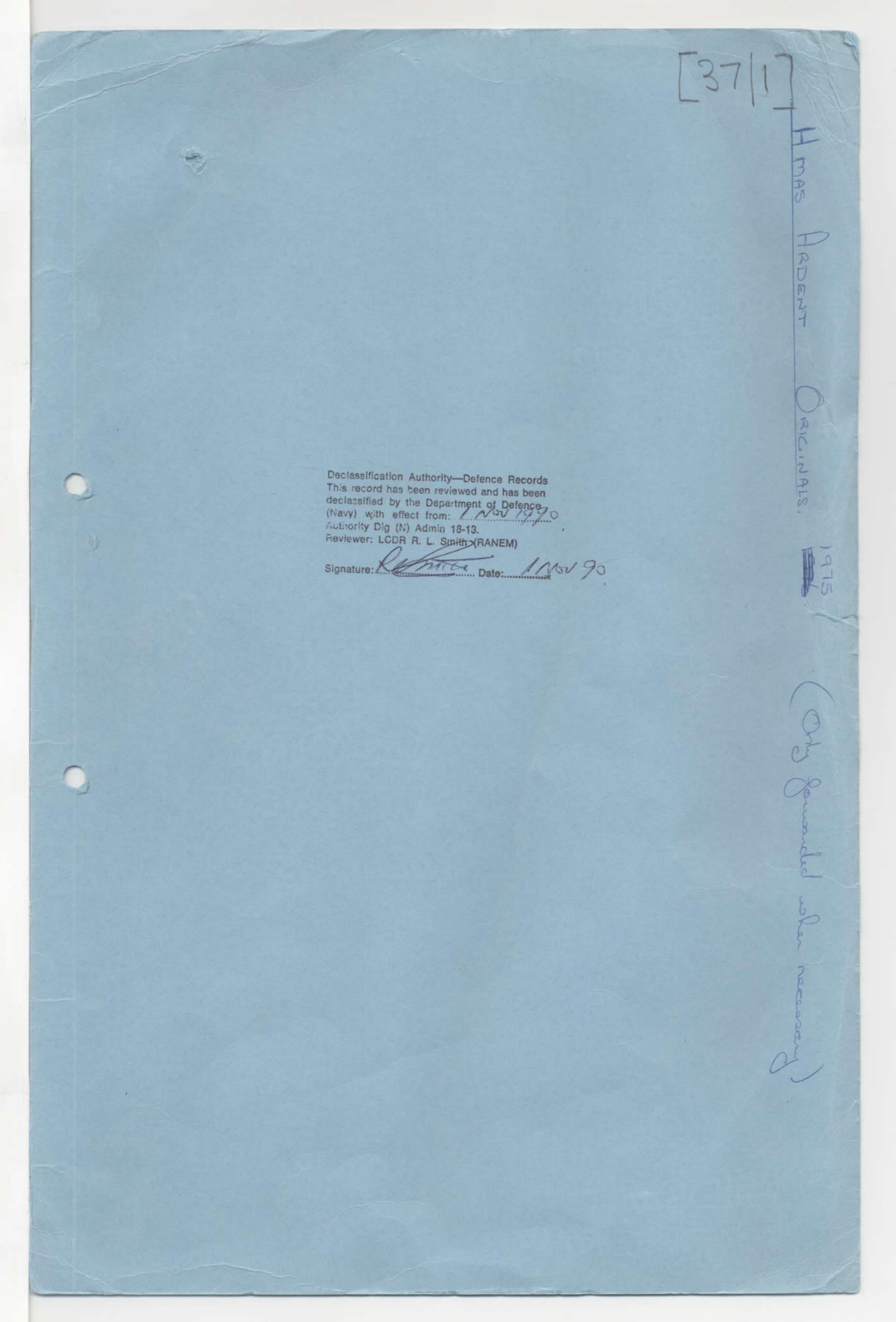
HMAS ARDENT

Item number: 37/1

Title: July-November 1975



AWM78-37/1



FILE: 428/3/1229

CONFIDENTIAL

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE (NAVY OFFICE)

HMAS ARDENT Report of P	roceedings JULY 1975
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- NOTES: A. This copy is circulated so that Board Members may see these reports soon after they reach Navy Office.
 - B. The report will be given again to Board Members with Director's comments if there is any matter of special interest in those comments.
 - C. Circulation lists numbers 2 and 3 are referred to Directors and Heads of Branches.
 - D. If any matter requires comprehensive treatment or reference to another Branch a new file should be raised, a suitable note being made above.



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE

(NAVY)

VICTORIA BARRACKS
MELBOURNE, VICTORIA 3004

IN REPLY QUOTE: 1/16/4

1 5 DEC 1975

The Secretary,
Department of Defence (Navy Office),
CANBERRA. 2600.

HMAS ARDENT - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS - JULY, 1975.

Reference: HMAS CERBERUS letter 1/16/9 of 31st October, 1975.

Forwarded.

(D.H.D. SMYTH)
Commodore, RAN
Naval Officer in Charge,
VICTORIA.

ENCLOSURE: CERBERUS letter 138/201/9 of 31st October, 1975.

CONFIDENTIAL

138/201/9

HMAS CERBERUS WESTERNPORT VIC 3920

3 1 OCT 1975

TCDR. R. A. N.

Captain RAN
Commanding Officer (ADD)

(L.J. MCINERNEY)

The Naval Officer-in-Charge VICTORIA

HMAS ARDENT - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS

JULY 1975

Reference: HMAS CERBERUS letter 1/16/9 dated 31st October 1975 (para 79)

1. Forwarded for information.



CONFIDENTIAL

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY

TELEPHONE:

IN REPLY QUOTE 1/16/2

HMAS ARDENT
At BURNIE TAS 7320

1st August 1975

The Commanding Officer
HMAS CERBERUS

For Information:

The Naval Officer-in-Charge VICTORIA

The Commander
Australian Mine Warfare and Patrol Forces

HMAS ARDENT - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS - JULY 1975

Sir,

- 1. I have the honour to report the proceedings of HMAS ARDENT under my command for the month of July 1975. Times throughout are Zone Kilo (-10).
- 2. For the first two days of the month, the ship remained alongside HMAS CERBERUS completing planned maintenance from the previous month. A scheduled towing exercise in Westernport with Tug TB 1055 on Thursday 3rd was cancelled due to heavy fog. At 0900 on Saturday 5th, Lieutenant Commander M.C.H. Hills RANR assumed command for weekend RANR training. I resumed command at 1630 on Sunday 6th. The Commanding Officer's Report of Proceedings will be forwarded separately.
- At 0930 on Monday 7th, ARDENT departed CERBERUS and conducted internal drills and exercises in Westernport, returning alongside at 1457. Further drills were conducted in Westernport between 0900 and 1404 on Tuesday 8th. At 0900, Thursday 10th, the ship departed and conducted an AATX off West Head during the forenoon. That afternoon, a successful CRAAFX was conducted using 40/60 Bofors and .50 Browning machine gun, before returning to CERBERUS at 1546. For the next eleven days the ship remained alongside for a self maintenance period.
- 4. At 1000 on Tuesday 22nd, ARDENT departed CERBERUS for a fourteen day fishery patrol of the western Bass Strait area. The first leg of the patrol to Corner Inlet and the Hogan/Kent groups

/of



-2-

of islands was uneventful and, at 0034 Wednesday 23rd, the ship anchored at Erith Island. Anchor was weighed at 0904 and the ship moved to East Cove, Deal Island, anchoring again at 0912.

- Departure was made at 1334 on Thursday 24th to continue the next leg of the fishery patrol to Eden. A programmed CRSUFX at Bass Pyramid on route could not be carried out as approval to fire in the area had not been granted.
- 6. Severe external interference on HF communications that evening prevented the PIM signal from being released and, at 1810, the ship diverted to Halibut oil rig from where the signal was finally passed some three hours later. Passage was then resumed to Eden where the ship berthed at 0859 on Friday 25th for a weekend visit. During the visit, the ship's golf team excelled themselves by taking second place and one individual prize in a local golf tournament. A total of 141 people visited the ship over the weekend.
- 7. ARDENT departed Eden at 0959, Monday 28th, for passage to Devonport via east of the Furneaux group of islands. At 2100 that evening, three members of the Ship's Company independently heard sonar transmissions against the ship's hull. Some ninety minutes later, intermittent radar contacts were held astern of the ship on a similar course and speed (ARDENT message 281140Z July 1975 and letter 16/19/1 dated 31st July 1975 refer).
- 8. At 0253 on Tuesday 29th, the ship anchored in Jamieson Bay, Cape Barren Island, to shelter from rapidly deteriorating sea conditions. Opportunity was taken during the day to hold a 'banyan' and fishing competition on the ideal beaches surrounding the bay. Anchor was weighed at 0105, Wednesday 30th to complete the passage to Devonport in moderate sea conditions. The ship berthed at No 2 Wharf at 0901 where she remained alongside until the end of the month.
- 9. The ship's mechanical and electrical machinery performed well throughout the month. A quarterly full power work-up was conducted after departure from Eden, and steady steaming trials were held during the fishery patrol. The health, welfare and morale of the Ship's Company has been good.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant

(J.S. O'HARA) Lieutenant, RAN Commanding Officer

Annexes: A. Steaming Details

B. Exercise Details

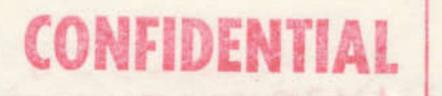
CONFIDENTIAL

ANNEX A TO HMAS ARDENT LETTER 1/16/2 DATED 1st AUGUST 1975

STEAMING DETAILS

1.	Distance steamed during period	1063.4
2.	Distance steamed since commissioning	38,675.4
3.	Hours underway during period	82.9
4.	Hours underway since commissioning	2,928.2
5.	Hours port main engine since installation	731.5
6.	Hours starboard main engine since installation	979.85
7.	Occasions for exceeding economical speed:	
	Date Speed Hours	Remarks

Date	Speed	Hours	Remarks
24 July	15	0.7	Clear engines
	18	1.4	Clear PIM
28 July	22.5	0.2	Quarterly full power work-up



ANNEX B TO HMAS ARDENT LETTER 1/16/2 DATED 1st AUGUST 1975

EXERCISE DETAILS

General:

Technical:

Man overboard

Action and Leaving Ship

stations

Steering breakdown

Seamanship: XO shiphandling

Senior Sailors berth ship

Leading Seamen shiphandling

Gunnery: Small arms practice

40/60 AATX, AAFX

.50 Cal AATX, AAFX

NBCD: Fire - magazine - casualty

evacuation

Flood - tiller flat

Diesel generator failure

Gearbox failure

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE (NAVY OFFICE)

ASRD N 1/1/76

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offer a defeult bassap arrived in lydney on 05 Nov.

DGNOP of 1/4 the remained in Sydney until 10 Nov and
until 15 Nov exercised in the Sydney Fewis Bay
area. MADONT visited Brisbane from

ONS 15 4 22-26 Nov and returned on 28 Nov to

Sydney where 8he was at the end of the month.

ONTS 1/4 Although experienceing a number of neuro defects

ONTS 1/4 Although the month her material state is Satisfactory.

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PRIO-N A- 13/2/50

ASRP-N (NS55)

- NOTES: A. This copy is circulated so that Board Members may see these reports soon after they reach Navy Office.
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\$ 10.





Telephone: 359-9111 Extension 3532

H.M.A. FLEET HEADQUARTERS. GARDEN ISLAND, N.S.W. 2000

1/16/8

1 9 DEC 1975

The Secretary Department of Defence (Navy Office)

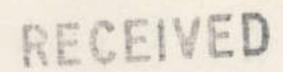
HMAS ARDENT - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS - NOVEMBER 1975

Forwarded.

(J. D. GOBLE)
Commodore
for Commander Australian Fleet

Enclosure:

HMAS ARDENT Report 1/16/2 dated 1st December 1975



3 0 DEC 75 0 9 3 7
DEPT. OF DEFENCE
CENTRAL REGISTRY

HMAS ARDENT At WAVERTON NSW 2060 1st December 1975

The Flag Officer Commanding HMA FLEET

For Information:

The Naval Officer-in-Charge VICTORIA

The Commanding Officer HMAS CERBERUS

The Commander Australian Mine Warfare and Patrol Forces HMAS WATERHEN

HMAS ARDENT - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS - NOVEMBER 1975

Sir,

- 1. I have the honour to report the proceedings of HMAS ARDENT, under my command, for the month of November 1975. Times throughout are Zone Lima (-11) unless otherwise indicated.
- 2. On Saturday 1st, ARDENT was berthed at HMAS CERBERUS completing preparations for the ship's deployment to Queensland for participation in Exercise TROPIC SPRINGS. Departure was made at 1259 the following day for passage to Sydney, and, after clearing Westernport, a light easterly breeze and slight south-easterly swell made conditions onboard quite comfortable. As in previous months, however, Bass Strait weather was not to remain kind for very long. After rounding Wilson's Promontory later in the afternoon, the wind increased to Force 4 and, combined with a five feet swell, conditions became extremely uncomfortable. Because the weather reports indicated an improvement in sight, it was decided to continue the passage until nearing Gabo Island, where suitable shelter could be obtained if necessary.
- 3. At 0700, Monday 3rd, ARDENT chopped to your Operational Control, Sir. Later in the forenoon, severe external interference on HF communications prevented ARDENT's Check Report from being cleared, Which resulted in the institution of a Mincheck procedure. Course was altered

/to



to the north at 1159 for Gabo Island, where the ship anchored close inshore off the north-west coast at 1543, firstly, to clear the Check Report and, secondly, to shelter from the continuing moderate wind which had now backed to the north-east. Full details of the communication difficulties and efforts to clear the Check Report are contained in my letter 4/3/1 dated 4th November 1975.

- 4. The ship remained at anchor overnight, proceeding again at 0757 on Tuesday 4th in vastly improved sea conditions. After an uneventful passage up the east coast, ARDENT berthed at HMAS WATERHEN at 0700, Wednesday 5th.
- Due to the extended involvement of HMA Ships STALWART, IBIS and SNIPE in the recovery operation of a Sea King helicopter which had ditched in Shoalhaven Bight the previous month, official notification was received on Thursday 6th that Exercise TROPIC SPRINGS was cancelled. ARDENT's programme for the month was subsequently amended to include Fleet duties in the Sydney/Jervis Bay area, a Squadron Exercise with AUSPABRON ONE, and a visit to Brisbane With STALWART, IBIS, SNIPE and AUSPABRON ONE. Later that day, I called on your Chief of Staff, Sir, Commodore J.D. Goble.
- ARDENT remained alongside WATERHEN until Monday 10th, when the ship was due to proceed on exercises in the Jervis Bay area with HMA Ships BOMBARD and BUCCANEER. However, defects which developed in the General Service Pump motor and the Auxiliary General Service Pump motor delayed ARDENT's sailing until 2038 that evening. After an independent passage, the ship anchored in F3 anchor berth, Jervis Bay, at 0326 Tuesday 11th.
- 7. Anchor was weighed at 0800 and ARDENT proceeded in company with BOMBARD and BUCCANEER to conduct 00 W manoeuvres and towing exercises; on completion of which all three ships anchored in formation in Darling Road at 1134. That afternoon, a BOARDEX was conducted between the three ships, after which anchor was agin weighed and further 00 W manoeuvres conducted. At 1753, BOMBARD detached to take up position as an Orange Force PTF for a Night Encounter Exercise to be held that evening; ARDENT and BUCCANEER forming the Blue Force PTFs. On completion of a very successful exercise at 0002 the following day, ARDENT night steamed in company with BOMBARD and BUCCANEER until 0734, when the three ships anchored in Jervis Bay.
- 8. Anchor was weighed again at 0831 and ARDENT proceeded

/alongside

-3-

alongside the SAR Jetty, HMAS CRESWELL, berthing port side to on BUCCANEER, bows south, at 0855. Shortly after, a survival at sea demonstration and lecture was conducted on the jetty by staff from HMAS ALBATROSS, followed by a helo winching display. A large proportion of the Ship's Company then proceeded to the Fire Ground for the remainder of the day for practical fire-fighting.

- 9. At 0633, Thursday 13th, ARDENT proceeded in company with BOMBARD and BUCCANEER for 00 W manoeuvres, followed by a Naval Gunfire Support firing exercise off Drum and Drumsticks. Due to a defect in the 40/60 Bofor, ARDENT was only able to fire the after .50 calibre machine gun, but the exercise still proved highly valuable. The ship then returned to Jervis Bay and anchored in formation with BOMBARD and BUCCANEER in Darling Road at 1130. Competitive and Emergency Party drills programmed for that afternoon had to be cancelled due to a defect in the main engine blocktubes. Repairs were completed later in the afternoon. At 0004, Friday 14th, ARDENT weighed anchor and proceeded in company with BOMBARD for the return passage to Sydney. The ship berthed at WATERHEN at 0903 and remained alongside for the weekend.
- 10. On Monday 17th, ARDENT departed WATERHEN at 0834 in company with BOMBARD and BUCCANEER for a two day Squadron Exercise to be held in the Sydney/Jervis Bay area, followed by BUCCANEER'S ORE on the third day. COMAUSMINPABFOR, Commander G. Halley, RAN, was embarked in BOMBARD. Whilst proceeding out of harbour, misfortune struck in that the high pressure oil line on the starboard gearbox burst, necessitating an immediate return to WATERHEN for repairs. ARDENT proceeded again at 1032 for independent passage to Jervis Bay. On arrival at 1630, the ship conducted internal drills and exercises, followed by TO WEXs and a heaving line transfer with BOMBARD. On completion, ARDENT detached to take up position as an Orange Force PTF for a Night Encounter Exercise.
- 11. After two unsuccessful attempts by ARDENT to penetrate the Blue Force patrol lines, the exercise concluded at 0005, Tuesday 18th. A night steam in company with BOMBARD and BUCCANEER followed until 0705, when '00 W manoeuvres and a CRSUFX by BOMBARD and BUCCANEER were conducted; ARDENT towing a splash target for the latter. The three ships then proceeded to Broken Bay where a formation anchorage was conducted off Hallett's Beach at 1352. That afternoon, emergency party transfers were

/conducted

conducted between the three ships, followed by an extremely valuable Disaster Exercise ashore in which the majority of the Ship's Company were actively involved. The ship remained at anchor overnight.

- 12. ARDENT weighed anchor and proceeded independently at 0715, Wednesday 19th, assuming the role of an Orange Force vessel for BUCCANEER's ORE to be held that day. After taking up position in the entrance to Broken Bay, ARDENT was boarded by BUCCANEER after being suspected of smuggling drugs and arms into the area. With suitable preparations onboard, it was hoped that a valuable exercise was provided for BUCCANEER's Boarding Party. On completion of the serial, ARDENT proceeded independently to the south to act as target towing ship for a CRSUFX by BOMBARD and BUCCANEER, followed by a 2 inch Rocket Flare firing from onboard for a CRROFX by BUCCANEER. ARDENT then took BUCCANEER in tow for the final serial of the ORE, after which the three ships returned to Sydney; ARDENT berthing at WATERHEN at 1554.
- MATERHEN at 1201 the following day, in company with BOMBARD and BUCCANEER, for passage to Brisbane. Due to a change in programme, STAL WART and IBIS had departed for Brisbane the previous day, and SNIPE had departed some three hours prior to ARDENT. At 0800, Friday 21st, rendezvous was effected with SNIPE and 00W manoeuvres were conducted between the four ships. The PTFs were then detached for the remainder of the passage to Moreton Bay, where rendezvous would again be made with SNIPE off the entrance to the Brisbane River.
- 14. While proceeding past the Evans Head area later in the day, the three ships were given a spectacular, impromptu display of low level flying by three F111C

/fighter-bombers

-5-

fighter-bombers from RAAF AMBERLEY. The display resulted in a good liason being established between the RAAF squadron and the ships during the visit to Brisbane, when officers from the three ships were given a tour of AMBERLEY.

- 15. After entering Moreton Bay via Caloundra Head later that evening, ARDENT anchored in formation with BOMBARD and BUCCANEER off Redcliffe at 0113K, Saturday 22nd. Anchor was weighed again at 0526K for passage up the Brisbane River in company with SNIPE, BOMBARD and BUCCANEER. ARDENT berthed starboard side to, on BUCCANEER, at HMAS MORETON at 0807K.
- That evening, the Executive Officer, Lieutenant C.N. Le Marshall, RAN, and I, assisted in hosting a reception onboard SNIPE by the officers of IBIS, SNIPE, BOMBARD and BUCCANEER. On Monday 24th, accompanied by the Commanding Officers of BOMBARD and BUCCANEER, I called on the Commanding Officer, HMAS MORETON, and COMAUSLANCRON ONE, Commander R.S. Barrell, RAN.
- 17. After a thoroughly enjoyable four day visit, ARDENT departed MORETON at 0940K, Wednesday 26th, in company with IBIS, SNIPE, BOMBARD and BUCCANEER. STALWART departed from downstream shortly after. On clearing Moreton Bay early that afternoon, 00 W manoeuvres and a SCREENEX were conducted between the five ships until 1715K, after which rendezvous was made with STALWART for the return passage to Sydney.
- 18. On Thursday 27th, 'Leapfrog' RAS approaches were conducted on STALWART for one hour during the forenoon, followed by a heaving line transfer from astern of STALWART. Further 00W manoeuvres and a SCREENEX were conducted during the remainder of the day. At 1444, IBIS was detached to proceed independently to Sydney, and BUCCANEER detached at 1555 to assist in trials during the night with IBIS.
- BUCCANEER rejoined at 0600, Friday 28th, for a ceremonial entry of ships into Sydney in the order of BOMBARD, BUCCANEER, ARDENT, SNIPE and STAL WART. ARDENT berthed at WATERHEN at 0738 for a four day recreation period prior to the ship's return journey to CERBERUS early next month.
- 20. An unusually high number of defects in the ship's mechanical and electrical machinery during the month caused an excessive amount of overtime for the ship's

/technical

-6-

technical staff, and an equally heavy requirement of Base Staff assistance from WATERHEN. Defects in the 975 radar (two in number), AN/URC 58 HF Transceiver, 40/60 Bofor servo motor, galley refrigerator compressor motor, anchor windlass drum controller, and the General Service Pump motor all required Urdef action. Other defects occurred in the Auxiliary General Service Pump motor, the after sullage pump motor, and the main engine blocktubes. However, due to the alacrity of the ship's technical staff and Base Staff, the ship was fortunate in missing very little of her programme commitments.

21. Although disappointment was felt at the cancelling of Exercise TROPIC SPRINGS, ARDENT gained extremely valuable experience during the month by operating with other ships; the opportunity for which has not occurred during at least the previous eighteen months. The extensive exercises completed during the period, particularly with the ships of AUSPABRON ONE, caused the Ship's Company to react quickly and admirably to the atmosphere of competition and the necessity for teamwork. Indeed, a noticeably high degree of 'esprit-de-corps' developed onboard which, it is hoped, will remain for some time. The health, conduct and welfare of the Ship's Company during the month has been good; morale is high.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(J.S. O'HARA) Lieutenant, RAN Commanding Officer

Annexes: A. Steaming Details

B. Exercise Details

ANNEX A TO HMAS ARDENT LETTER 1/16/2 DATED 1ST DECEMBER 1975

STEAMING DETAILS

1.	Distance steamed during month	2,640.7
2.	Distance steamed since commissioning	43,763.6
3.	Hours underway during month	211.5
4.	Hours underway since commissioning	3,332.7
5.	Hours port main engine since installation	1,140.25
6.	Hours starboard main engine since installation	1,218.85

7. Occasions for exceeding fast routeing speed:

Date	Speed	Hours	Rer	narks
11 Nov		0.9	Exercise	requirements
13 Nov	18.5	1.0	17	11
17 Nov	16.5 18.5	3.6	11	99
	19.5	0.3	11	99
18 Nov 19 Nov		0.3	11 ti	91 91
21 Nov	18.0	0.2	17	99
26 Nov 27 Nov		0.4	11	11

ANNEX B TO HMAS ARDENT LETTER 1/16/2 DATED 1ST DECEMBER 1975

EXERCISE DETAILS

Department	Date	Exercise
General:	11 Nov	00 W manoeuvres - BOMBARD, BUCCANEER Man overboard 00 W shiphandling NEX - BOMBARD, BUCCANEER
	13 Nov	00 W manoeuvres - BOMBARD, BUCCANEER
	17 Nov	Man overboard NEX - BOMBARD, BUCCANEER
	18 Nov	Station Master - BOMBARD, BUCCANEER OOW manoeuvres - BOMBARD, BUCCANEER DISTEX
	21 Nov	00 W manoeuvres - BOMBARD, SNIPE BUCCANEER
	26 Nov	OOW manoeuvres - BOMBARD, BUCCANEER, IBIS, SNIPE SCREENEX - BOMBARD, BUCCANEER, IBIS, SNIPE
	27 Nov	RAS approaches - STAL WART OOW manoeuvres - BOMBARD, BUCCANEER SCREENEX - STAL WART, SNIPE, BOMBARD, BUCCANEER
Seamanship:	11 Nov	TO WEX - ARDENT tow BUCCANEER
	17 Nov	TO WEX - ARDENT tow BOMBARD TO WEX - BOMBARD tow ARDENT Heaving line transfer - BOMBARD
	19 Nov	TO WEX - ARDENT tow BUCCANEER
	21 Nov	Heaving line transfer - BOMBARD Heaving line transfer - STALWART
Communications;	27 Nov	NAVCOMEX 302

-2-

ANNEX B

Department	Date	Exercise
Gunnery:	11 Nov 13 Nov 19 Nov	BOARDEX - ARDENT board BUCCANEER NGSFX50 Cal Browning 2 inch rocket flare launch
NBCD:	11 Nov 12 Nov 18 Nov	Flood - Tiller Flat Firefighting Transfer emergency party
Navigation:	11 Nov 12 Nov 18 Nov 22 Nov	Formation anchorage - BOMBARD, BUCCANEER Formation anchorage - BOMBARD, BUCCANEER Formation anchorage - BOMBARD, BUCCANEER Formation anchorage - BOMBARD, BUCCANEER
Technical:	11 Nov	Diesel Alternator failure Steering gear breakdown

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DETAILS OF INFORMATION
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	1. John May
	(Olanatura)

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