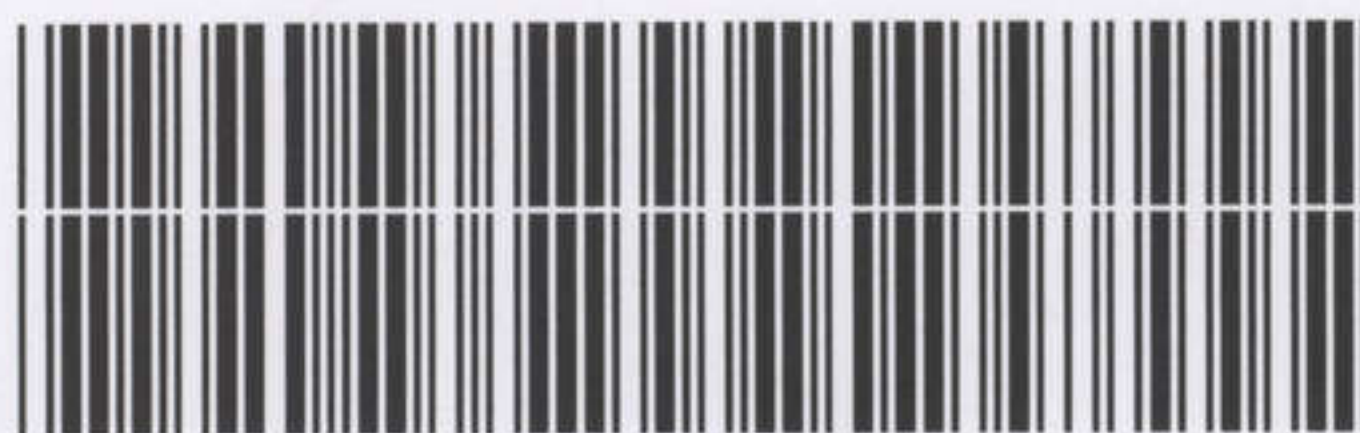


AWM78
**Reports of Proceedings,
HMA Ships and Establishments**

HMAS ASSAIL

Item number: 41/8

Title: January-December 1978



AWM78-41/8

[41/8]

Assail

RefP's

Duplicates 1978

428.3.2766.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL
ACCESS STATUS
OPEN

RESTRICTED

1/16/1

HMAS ASSAIL
at DARWIN

2 February 1978

The Naval Officer Commanding
NORTH AUSTRALIA AREA

HMAS ASSAIL - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS - JANUARY 1978

Sir,

1. I have the honour to report the proceedings of HMAS ASSAIL, under my command for the month of January 1978. Time zones in this report are as indicated.
2. At the beginning of January ASSAIL was berthed at the Patrol Boat Landing in Darwin undergoing an AMP. This remained the situation until 1000(1K) Tuesday 10 January when the ship departed on a 15 day patrol along the North West coast. HMAS ARDENT sailed at the same time which enabled both ships to conduct some OOW manoeuvres before beginning their respective patrols.
3. ASSAIL proceeded across the Joseph Bonaparte Gulf to the fishing ground near Browse Islet where six pairs of Taiwanese trawlers were sighted. None was boarded, however, because of the difficult conditions created by Cyclone Trudy which was building up to the north.
4. During the morning of Thursday 12 January ASSAIL anchored near Cape Leveque Lighthouse so that the headkeeper could be approached regarding becoming a coastwatcher. The ship departed in the afternoon and proceeded to Broome. ASSAIL berthed at 1000(H) Friday 13 January to embark fuel and allow the ship's company an overnight stop.
5. The patrol was continued the next day when ASSAIL departed Broome and proceeded towards Port Hedland. Two pairs of Taiwanese trawlers (MAO HUNG 11/12 and YUAN YU 11/12) were boarded that afternoon. On Sunday 15 January another two pairs (KING HAI HWA 1/2 and HUNG CHOU 1/2) were boarded in a fishing ground to the north east of Bedout Island. The ship anchored near Bedout Island that night in order to watch the trawlers but none came near the island.
6. ASSAIL berthed in Port Hedland at 1000(H) Monday 16 January to replenish with fuel and departed the following day at the same time. During the patrol between Port Hedland and the Monte Bello Islands only one pair of trawlers was sighted (YU TAI 1/2) and these were boarded on Tuesday evening. ASSAIL anchored in the Monte Bello Islands during the early hours of Wednesday 18 January before proceeding to Point Murat that night.

/7. The ship

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

- 2 -

7. The ship berthed at the Point Murat Jetty at 1000(H) Thursday 19 January and remained there until the next day when the return leg of the patrol was commenced. ASSAIL then headed towards Broome where fuel was replenished on Sunday 22 January. The passage to Darwin was made via the fishing ground near Browse Islet where two pairs of trawlers (CHUNG FANG 1/2 and MON HO 31/32) were boarded on Monday afternoon. The ship arrived in Darwin at 0900(IK) Wednesday 25 January.

8. During the period 25-31 January ASSAIL patrolled the Beagle Gulf as part of Operation Seawatch. The patrol was uneventful except for the poor weather conditions which caused the ship to anchor on several occasions. ASSAIL berthed in Darwin at 0930(IK) Tuesday 31 January to commence an Assisted Maintenance Period.

Marine and Weapons Electrical Engineering

9. During January no major problems were encountered with any of the machinery or electrical equipment.

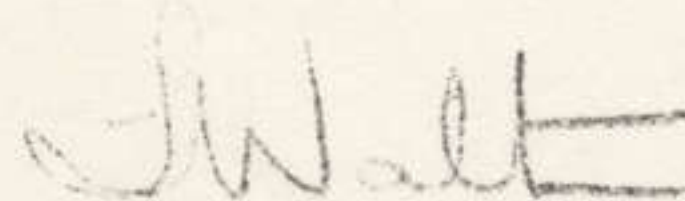
General

10. The health, welfare and conduct of the ship's company was very good during the month.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,



(L. WALTON)
Lieutenant RAN
Commanding Officer

Annexes: A. Steaming Details
B. Drills, Evolutions and Exercises

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

ANNEX "A" TO
HMAS ASSAIL LETTER 1/16/1
OF 2 FEBRUARY 1978

STEAMING DETAILS

- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| 1. Distance steamed during the month | 3,703.9 miles |
| 2. Hours underway during the month | 324 hrs 20 mins |
| 3. Distance steamed since commissioning | 235,769.6 miles |
| 4. Hours underway since commissioning | 18,004 hrs 8 mins |
| 5. Occasions for exceeding fast routeing speed: | Nil |

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

ANNEX "B" TO
HMAS ASSAIL LETTER 1/16/1
OF 4 FEBRUARY 1978

DRILLS, EVOLUTIONS AND EXERCISES

TUE 10 JAN	OOW Manoeuvres with HMAS ARDENT
THU 12 JAN	Point Ship : Cape Leveque
FRI 13 JAN	Man Overboard Exercises
SAT 14 JAN	Boarded MAO HUNG 11 and YUAN YU 11
SUN 15 JAN	Boarded KING HAI HWA 1 and HUNG CHOU 1
TUE 17 JAN	XO con ship : departed Port Hedland. Boarded YU TAI 1
WED 18 JAN	Private Firearms Shoot
SAT 21 JAN	40/60 Bofor and .50 calibre machine gun shoot at 2 inch rocket flares
SUN 22 JAN	7.62mm Automatic Rifle Shoot
MON 23 JAN	Boarded CHUNG FANG 11 and MON HO 31
WED 25 JAN	9mm Pistol Shoot
SAT 28 JAN	Damage Control Exercise. Point Ship : Picnic Cove
TUE 31 JAN	XO con ship : Patrol Boat Landing

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

1/16/1

HMAS ASSAIL
at DARWIN

4 March 1978

The Naval Officer Commanding
NORTH AUSTRALIA AREA

HMAS ASSAIL - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS - FEBRUARY 1978

Sir,

1. I have the honour to report the proceedings of HMAS ASSAIL under my command for the month of February 1978. The time zone throughout this report is IK (-9½).

2. At the beginning of February ASSAIL was berthed in Darwin undergoing a two week AMP. The ship departed harbour at 0800 Monday 13 February in company with HMA Ships ARDENT, ADROIT and AWARE to participate in your sea inspection, Sir, of ADROIT. On completion of the exercise ASSAIL proceeded to patrol line Alfa in the Beagle Gulf where the ship was programmed to patrol until 2 March.

3. The first week of the patrol (13-20 February) was largely uneventful. The routine consisted of patrolling each night and anchoring by day so that maintenance could be carried out. Much work on the upperdeck was completed during that week owing to the abnormally good weather. The ship's newly joined Stage 4 officer under training also received a good deal of shiphandling and pilotage training in that period.

4. At 0530 Monday 20 February ASSAIL rendezvoused with HMAS ARDENT near the patrol line. Officer of the Watch manoeuvres were conducted by the Midshipman until 0900 whereupon ASSAIL proceeded to anchor off Charles Point and ARDENT entered Darwin harbour.

5. The ship departed the anchorage during the afternoon to return to the patrol line but at 1905 a minor fire occurred in the wiring system on the starboard engine. ASSAIL drifted in the calm sea whilst the damaged wiring was removed and a temporary system installed and at 2240 the ship was once again steaming on the starboard engine. ASSAIL anchored off Charles Point several hours later and berthed in Darwin at 0900 Tuesday 21 February to enable repairs to be carried out. The ship remained in Darwin for the remainder of the month.

/Marine and Weapons

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

- 2 -

Marine and Weapons Electrical Engineering

6. The most serious defect experienced during February was the damaged wiring on the starboard engine (HMAS ASSAIL URDEF 17/80 and TM 145 L34/80 refer). This defect was rectified on Tuesday 28 February but the ship did not complete the remainder of the patrol because the replacement for a defective overspeed switch on the starboard generator was not available. The rest of the ship's machinery and electrical equipment performed well.

7. An INC inspection of the 40/60 Mk 7 Bofor was carried out between 6-9 February.

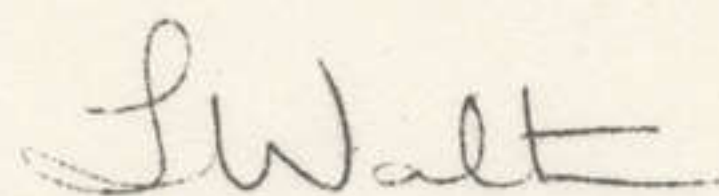
General

8. The health, welfare and conduct of the ship's company was good during the month. A lecture on security and the dangers of alcohol abuse was presented to the ship's company during February.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,



(L. WALTON)
Lieutenant RAN
Commanding Officer

Annex "A" - Steaming Details

Annex "B" - Drills, Evolutions and Exercises

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

ANNEX "A" TO
HMAS ASSAIL LETTER 1/16/1
OF 4 MARCH 1978

STEAMING DETAILS

1. Distance steamed during the month 1,196.8 miles
2. Hours underway during the month 99 hrs 38 mins
3. Distance steamed since commissioning 236,966.4 miles
4. Hours underway since commissioning 18,103 hours 46 mins
5. Occasions for exceeding fast routeing speed:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speed</u>	<u>Duration</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
WED15FEB	19 k	35 mins	To close and identify vessel

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

ANNEX "B" TO
HMAS ASSAIL LETTER 1/16/1
OF 4 MARCH 1978

DRILLS, EVOLUTIONS AND EXERCISES

MON 6 FEB	Harbour Fire Exercise
TUE 7 FEB	Harbour Fire Exercise
WED 8 FEB	Harbour Fire Exercise
THU 9 FEB	Harbour Flood/D.C. Exercise
FRI 10 FEB	Harbour Fire Exercise
SUN 12 FEB	Harbour Fire Exercise
MON 13 FEB	Pilotage Exercise Photex OOW Manoeuvres RAS Approaches 40/60 Bofor and 50 cal MG SUFX Boardex Towex
TUE 14 FEB	MIDN Shiphandling: Man Overboard Exercises Private Small Arms Shoot
WED 15 FEB	MIDN Shiphandling : Man Overboard Exercises Damage Control Exercise
FRI 17 FEB	MIDN Pilotage Training : Anchorage
SAT 18 FEB	MIDN Pilotage Training : Anchorage
SUN 19 FEB	Private Small Arms and 9mm Pistol Shoot
MON 20 FEB	MIDN conducted OOW Manoeuvres with HMAS ARDENT 7.62 mm Automatic Rifle Shoot
FRI 24 FEB	Harbour Fire Exercise
SAT 25 FEB	Harbour Fire Exercise
SUN 26 FEB	Harbour Fire Exercise
MON 27 FEB	Harbour Flood Exercise
TUE 28 FEB	Harbour Fire Exercise

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

1/16/1

HMAS ASSAIL
at Sea

1 April 1978

The Naval Officer Commanding
NORTH AUSTRALIA AREA

HMAS ASSAIL - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS - MARCH 1978

Sir,

1. I have the honour to report the proceedings of HMAS ASSAIL under my command for the month of March 1978. The time zones used in this report are India Kilo (-9½) until Monday 27 March then Kilo (-10) for the remainder of the month.
2. At the beginning of March ASSAIL was berthed in Darwin undergoing an AMP. The period up to 19 March was largely uneventful except that on Monday 13 March you, Sir, conducted an informal walkround of the ship. At 1000 Sunday 19 March ASSAIL departed Darwin and commenced a 26 day patrol of the Arnhem Land coast and the Gulf of Carpentaria.
3. After leaving harbour ASSAIL proceeded to the area west of Charles Point in order to locate the ketch OSTARA. The ketch had reported to Marine Operations, Canberra that it was lost and very low on fuel. ASSAIL, with the assistance of an S2G, found the OSTARA at 1230 whereupon she was given 15 gallons of dieseline and a position. The OSTARA then proceeded into Darwin and ASSAIL headed for a practise area where all weapons were successfully fired at rocket flares.
4. The first leg of the patrol consisted of a passage along the Declared Fishing Zone to Gove via the western side of Bathurst Island. Only three Taiwanese drift netters were found in the area and these were all boarded. ASSAIL berthed in Gove at 0930 Wednesday 22 March to replenish with fuel and have an overnight stop. The following morning you, Sir, visited the ship for a short period whilst on your tour of Gove.
5. Upon departing Gove ASSAIL proceeded south to the Sir Edward Pellew Group of islands where the ship anchored during the afternoon of Friday 24 March. ASSAIL weighed anchor the next morning and conducted a patrol along the DFZ towards Mornington Island. Three Taiwanese drift netters were located in the area but they were all operating well outside the limit. ASSAIL anchored in the Bountiful Islands at 1100 Sunday 26 March.
6. The ship departed the Bountiful Islands at 0400 the next day and commenced a patrol towards Weipa. Many contacts were investigated along the coastline but all proved to be Australian prawn trawlers. ASSAIL berthed at

/Evans Landing

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

- 2 -

Evans Landing in Weipa on Tuesday 28 March to take on fuel before proceeding to Thursday Island. The ship arrived at Thursday Island at 1000 Wednesday 29 March and remained in harbour until 1530 the next day.

7. On Friday 31 March ASSAIL conducted another firing of all weapons against a sleeve target towed by an Omni Aviation Aztec. At the end of March the ship was patrolling the DFZ between Weipa and Thursday Island.

Marine and Weapons Electrical Engineering

8. All machinery and electrical equipment operated very well during March and only minor defects were encountered.

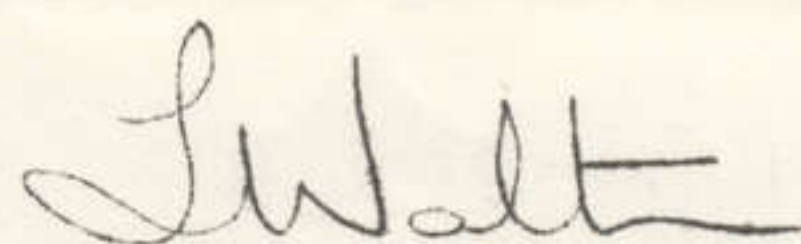
General

9. The health, welfare and conduct of the ship's company was good during the month.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,



(L. WALTON)
Lieutenant RAN
Commanding Officer

Annex "A" - Steaming Details

Annex "B" - Drills, Evolutions and Exercises

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

ANNEX "A" TO
HMAS ASSAIL LETTER 1/16/1
OF 1 APRIL 1978

STEAMING DETAILS

1. Distance steamed during the month 2,178.6 miles
2. Hours underway during the month 175 hrs 44 mins
3. Distance steamed since commissioning 239,145 miles
4. Hours underway since commissioning 18,279 hrs 30 mins
5. Occasions for exceeding fast routeing speed:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speed</u>	<u>Duration</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Tue 21	21K	40 min	To close and identify vessel in DFZ
Sun 26	19K	55 min	To close and identify vessel in DFZ

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

ANNEX "B" TO
HMAS ASSAIL LETTER 1/16/1
OF 1 APRIL 1978

DRILLS, EVOLUTIONS AND EXERCISES

WED 01 MAR	Harbour Fire Exercise
THU 02 MAR	Harbour Fire Exercise
FRI 03 MAR	Harbour Fire Exercise
SAT 04 MAR	Harbour Flood Exercise
SUN 05 MAR	Harbour Fire Exercise
MON 06 MAR	Harbour Fire Exercise
WED 08 MAR	Harbour Fire Exercise
THU 09 MAR	Harbour Fire Exercise
FRI 10 MAR	Harbour Flood Exercise
SAT 11 MAR	Harbour Fire Exercise
MON 13 MAR	Harbour Fire Exercise
TUE 14 MAR	Harbour Flood Exercise
WED 15 MAR	Harbour Fire Exercise
THU 16 MAR	Harbour Flood Exercise
FRI 17 MAR	Harbour Fire Exercise
SUN 19 MAR	Transferred fuel by boat to ketch OSTARA. 40/60 Bofor and 50 cal MG firing at 2" Rocket Flares
MON 20 MAR	Minor Damage Control Exercise Boarding Stations - HONG LEE 3
TUE 21 MAR	Action Stations Leaving Ship Stations Boarding Stations - HUNG YANG 1 & MENG SHN 101
WED 22 MAR	Stage 4 Officer U/T Night Blind Pilotage Exercise - Gove
THU 23 MAR	Stage 4 Officer U/T Blind Pilotage Exercise - Bremer Island Strait
FRI 24 MAR	Major Damage Control Exercise - Ship Aground Emergency Stations Private Firearms Shoot
SAT 25 MAR	Man Overboard Exercises - all OOW 40/60 Bofor and 2" Rocket Flare Firing
TUE 28 MAR	XO conducted Man Overboard Shiphandling Exercises
FRI 31 MAR	40/60 Bofor and 50 cal MG AATX and AACRF

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

1/16/1

HMAS ASSAIL
at Sea

2 May 1978

The Naval Officer Commanding
NORTH AUSTRALIA AREA

HMAS ASSAIL - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS - APRIL 1978

Sir,

1. I have the honour to report the proceedings of HMAS ASSAIL under my command for the month of April 1978. The time zones used in this report are Kilo (-10) until Monday 10 April then India Kilo (-9½) for the remainder of the month.
2. On Saturday 1 April ASSAIL was patrolling the DFZ between Weipa and Thursday Island. Two pairs of Taiwanese trawlers were boarded that afternoon after which the ship proceeded to anchor near Duyfken Point. ASSAIL weighed anchor at 1310 the next day in order to patrol the area west of Weipa until midnight when the ship returned to the same anchorage.
3. At 0500 Monday 3 April ASSAIL proceeded to rendezvous with HMAS BAYONET near the entrance to Weipa. After conducting a variety of OOW manoeuvres and several heaving line transfers both ships entered harbour to fuel and stay overnight.
4. ASSAIL departed Weipa at 1100 Tuesday 4 April and commenced patrolling the DFZ towards Mornington Island. On Wednesday afternoon ASSAIL was directed by HMAS CAIRNS to proceed to Thursday Island and await the development of Cyclone Hal which was forming near Groote Eylandt. Despite the rough conditions experienced in the two day passage, no serious damage was caused. The ship berthed on HMAS BAYONET at 1030 Friday 7 April.
5. The effects of Cyclone Hal had almost disappeared by 1200 Monday 10 April when ASSAIL departed Thursday Island in company with BAYONET. Officer of the watch manoeuvres were conducted for a short period before ASSAIL detached and proceeded to Gove for fuel.
6. Upon departing Gove at 1730 Tuesday 11 April the ship commenced a patrol of the Arnhem Land coast towards Darwin. Soon after rounding Cape Wessel at midnight 11/12 April, two contacts were gained which were approximately 15 miles from the coast. Whilst proceeding to investigate, a net was found which extended between 9.6 - 12 miles from the Cape. As it was not certain which FFV owned the offending net, both were boarded and questioned. Once the SHIN NAN KAI 2 claimed the net the other FFV was allowed to go. The former vessel was then apprehended and, after recovering her net, was escorted to Darwin where both ships arrived at 0830 Friday 14 April.

/7. ASSAIL remained

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

- 2 -

7. ASSAIL remained in Darwin until 28 April during which time an AMP was conducted. The only event of note in this period was that eleven members of the ship's company participated in the Anzac Day march and memorial service in Alice Springs at the invitation of the local sub-branch of the Returned Servicemen's League. This invitation is extended each year and it appeared that both the RSL members and the ship's company enjoyed the reunion very much.

8. At 1000 Friday 28 April ASSAIL departed Darwin and commenced an FFV patrol along the Arnhem Land coast. No such vessels were located over the next two days and at 1320 Sunday 30 April the ship anchored near Truant Island and stayed there for the rest of the day.

Marine and Weapons Electrical Engineering

9. No major defects were encountered during the month and all machinery and electrical equipment functioned well.

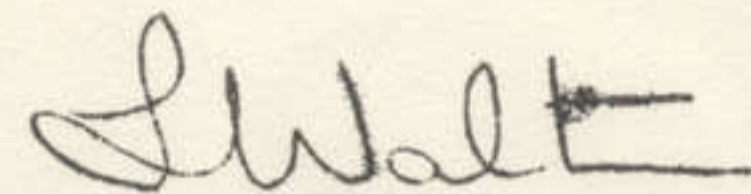
General

10. The health, welfare and conduct of the ship's company was very good during the month.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,



(L. WALTON)
Lieutenant RAN
Commanding Officer

Annex "A" - Steaming details
Annex "B" - Drills, Evolutions and Exercises

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

ANNEX "B" TO
HMAS ASSAIL LETTER 1/16/1
OF 2 MAY 1978

DRILLS, EVOLUTIONS AND EXERCISES

SAT 1 APR: Boarding Stations - HWA CHUAN I
HUNG DER II
CHUNG YUAN 12

SUN 2 APR: Junior Officer U/T Visual Pilotage - Anchorage.

MON 3 APR: OOW Manoeuvres, RAS Approaches, formation
entrance into Weipa with HMAS BAYONET.

FRI 7 APR: Junior Officer U/T conducted visual pilotage
entry into Thursday Island.
Harbour Fire Exercise

SAT 8 APR: Harbour Flood Exercise

MON 10 APR: XO conned ship out of Thursday Island,
OOW Manoeuvres, RAS Approaches, and radar
calibration with HMAS BAYONET.

TUE 11 APR: Full power trial.
50 cal. MG and 2 inch Rocket Flare Firings.
Private Small Arms Shoot.
XO conned ship during departure from Gove.

WED 12 APR: Boarding Stations - SHIN NAN KAI 2
CHIEN CHUEN 1
Apprehended SHIN NAN KAI 2 for fishing within
D. Z.
9mm Pistol Shoot.

FRI 14 APR: Harbour Flood Exercise

TUE 18 APR: Harbour Fire Exercise

WED 19 APR: Harbour Fire Exercise

SAT 22 APR: Harbour Fire Exercise

MON 24 APR: Harbour Fire Exercise

TUE 25 APR: Harbour Fire Exercise

THU 27 APR: Harbour Flood Exercise

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

ANNEX "A" TO
HMAS ASSAIL LETTER 1/16/1
OF 2 MAY 1978

STEAMING DETAILS

- | | |
|---|---------------------|
| 1. Distance steamed during the month | 2,958.4 miles |
| 2. Hours underway during the month | 246 hrs 59 mins. |
| 3. Distance steamed since commissioning | 242,103.4 miles |
| 4. Hours underway since commissioning | 18,526 hrs 29 mins. |
| 5. Occasions for exceeding fast routeing speed: | |

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speed</u>	<u>Duration</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
11 April	21	2½ hours	Full power trial

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

1/16/1

HMAS ASSAIL
at DARWIN

5 June 1978

The Naval Officer Commanding
NORTH AUSTRALIA AREA

HMAS ASSAIL - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS - MAY 1978

Sir,

1. I have the honour to report the proceedings of HMAS ASSAIL under my command for the month of May 1978. The time zone used throughout this report is India Kilo (-9½).
2. At the beginning of Monday 1 May ASSAIL was anchored at Truant Island, having departed Darwin two days previously on an FFV patrol along the Arnhem Land coast. The ship weighed anchor that morning and proceeded to Gove for fuel, arriving at 1130.
3. ASSAIL departed Gove at 1330 Tuesday 2 May and commenced patrolling the DFZ towards Groote Eylandt. No FFV's were encountered before the ship anchored near Chasm Island at 0345 3 May to avoid the rough conditions created by a freshening south easterly wind. ASSAIL weighed anchor at 0800 the following day and returned to Gove where fuel was embarked during the forenoon of Friday 5 May.
4. After departing Gove the ship commenced the return leg of the patrol to Darwin. Again no FFV activity was sighted and the only incident of note was that on Saturday 6 May ASSAIL searched in vain around the Goulburn Islands for the source of mysterious lights which had been observed from ashore during the previous three nights. The ship arrived in Darwin at 1400 Sunday to take on fuel and stay overnight before patrolling the Beagle Gulf.
5. The first two days of the patrol consisted of anchoring during the daylight hours and patrolling by night. On Wednesday 10 May ASSAIL boarded the Taiwanese drift netter TA SHUN 1 and soon afterwards was directed to the Garden Point Mission on Melville Island where two small vessels of Indo Chinese origin were held by the local police. These vessels (KIM THANH and CONG THANH) were under escort to Darwin by early evening. After a passage made difficult by rough seas, the 42 refugees arrived in harbour at 1400 on Thursday where the Immigration Department assumed custody of them.
6. ASSAIL returned to the patrol area the following day but no ICOV's were detected until the forenoon of Sunday 14 May when the CON DAO 3 (121 refugees) was found drifting by an S2G Tracker of VS816 Det Dar. This vessel was towed by ASSAIL to an anchorage near Cape Fourcroy where water was

/provided for

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

- 2 -

provided for the refugees and the diesel engine. Repairs were also carried out on the propeller shaft which had uncoupled and jammed the rudder. By 2130, ASSAIL and CON DAO 3 were proceeding towards Darwin where both vessels arrived early Monday morning.

7. At 0830 Tuesday 16 May ASSAIL resumed the Beagle Gulf patrol. The next three days were uneventful except that on Thursday afternoon a combined firing of all weapons was conducted in a firing area near the patrol line. ASSAIL berthed in Darwin at 1130 Friday 19 May to commence a maintenance period which occupied the remainder of the month.

8. During the period 21-23 May several members of the ship's company, including myself, gave evidence in the trial of the SHIN NAN KAI 2 which ASSAIL had apprehended on 12 April for fishing within the DFZ near Cape Wessel. Despite the defence provided by a Queen's Counsel from Melbourne the magistrate found the Taiwanese were guilty and as punishment the trawler and catch were confiscated and the master was fined \$1,000.

Marine and Weapons Electrical Engineering

9. The majority of engineering and electrical equipment functioned satisfactorily during the month. The exceptions were the General Service Pump motor and one of the RM 916A radar transceivers but these defects have been rectified.

General

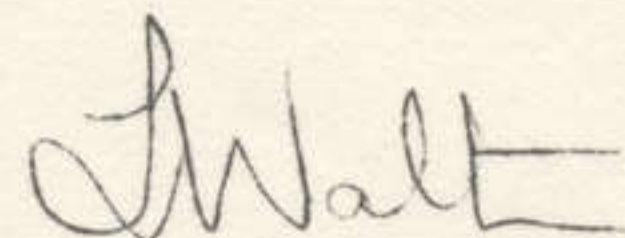
10. The health, welfare and conduct of the ship's company was good during the month. Morale was also good. A lecture on security and the dangers of alcohol abuse was presented to the ship's company in mid May.

11. In the latter part of May eight senior and junior sailors were posted to the ship. Initially it appeared that such a large change in the ship's company, particularly in the technical branch, would have a detrimental effect upon the ship but by the end of the month few problems had arisen and all had settled in quickly.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,



(L. WALTON)
Lieutenant RAN
Commanding Officer

Annexes: A. Steaming Details
B. Drills, Evolutions and Exercises

RESTRICTED

ANNEX "B" TO
HMAS ASSAIL LETTER 1/16/1
OF 5 JUNE 1978

DRILLS, EVOLUTIONS AND EXERCISES

MON 1 MAY	Harbour Fire Exercise
TUE 2 MAY	XO berthing practice - Gove Officer U/T conducted blind pilotage passage of Bremer Strait
WED 10 MAY	Boarding Stations : TA SHUN 1 Escorted KIM THANH and CONG THANH to Darwin
SUN 14 MAY	Boarding Stations : CON DAO 3 Towed ICOV to Cape Fourcroy Escorted ICOV to Darwin
MON 15 MAY	Harbour Fire Exercise
WED 17 MAY	Man Overboard Exercises - all OOW
THU 18 MAY	Action Stations 40/60 Bofor, 50 calibre MG and 2" Rocket Flare Firings
FRI 19 MAY	Officer U/T berthed ship at PBL.
SAT 20 MAY	Harbour Fire Exercise
SUN 21 MAY	Harbour Fire Exercise
MON 22 MAY	Harbour Fire Exercise
TUE 23 MAY	Harbour Fire Exercise
WED 24 MAY	Harbour Fire Exercise
THU 25 MAY	Harbour Fire Exercise
SAT 27 MAY	Harbour Flood Exercise
SUN 28 MAY	Harbour Fire Exercise
MON 29 MAY	Harbour Fire Exercise
TUE 30 MAY	Harbour Fire Exercise

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

ANNEX "A" TO
HMAS ASSAIL LETTER 1/16/1
OF 5 JUNE 1978

STEAMING DETAILS

1. Distance steamed during the month 3,142.7 miles
2. Hours underway during the month 253 hrs. 15 mins.
3. Distance steamed since commissioning 245,246.1 miles
4. Hours underway since commissioning 18,779 hrs. 44 mins.
5. Occasions for exceeding fast routeing speed:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speed</u>	<u>Duration</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
WED 10 MAY	20	7 hours	To intercept KIM THANH and CONG THANH
SUN 14 MAY	21	2½ hours	To intercept CON DAO 3

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

1/16/1

HMAS ASSAIL
at Darwin

3 July, 1978.

The Naval Officer Commanding
North Australia Area

HMAS ASSAIL - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS -
JUNE, 1978.

Sir,

1. I have the honour to report the proceedings of HMAS ASSAIL under my command for the month of June, 1978. The time zones used in this report are as indicated.

2. At the beginning of June, ASSAIL was alongside the PBL completing a two week AMP. The ship departed harbour at 1530IK Thursday 1st and commenced an eleven day patrol of the Beagle Gulf. The pattern of this period consisted of patrolling by night and anchoring during the day whilst a S2G Tracker conducted the daily reconnaissance flight. Approximately every four days the ship fuelled in Darwin and stayed overnight to allow the ship's company to go ashore.

3. At 1000IK Saturday 10th, you Sir, started the Round the Islands yacht race from ASSAIL. After disembarking the official guests, the ship returned to the Beagle Gulf only to be directed to a stranded pleasure boat by an S2G Tracker. The boat was towed into Darwin during the afternoon after which ASSAIL again proceeded to the patrol area. The ship berthed on Sunday afternoon to refuel before commencing an FFV patrol along the North West coast.

4. ASSAIL departed harbour at 1000IK Monday 12th to rendezvous with HMAS ARDENT near Charles Point. Seamanship evolutions, OOW manoeuvres and weapons firings were conducted until late that afternoon when ASSAIL detached and proceeded west. The patrol to Port Hedland was uneventful and no FFVs were sighted. After an overnight stop in Port Hedland, the ship proceeded to Broome at 1000H Sunday 18th. ASSAIL departed Broome at 1000H Tuesday 20th in order to rendezvous with HMAS LABUAN and return two personnel who had been taking delivery of spare parts in the town.

/2 During the

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

/2

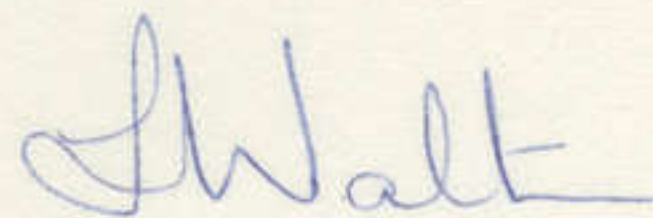
5. During the afternoon of Wednesday 21st, ASSAIL was proceeding towards Troughton Passage on one engine when a defective rectifier in the battery charger caused the engine to stop. Neither engine could be started because of the low power available in the battery banks but after 45 minutes, both were running when the charger was used to boost the batteries during the starting process. ASSAIL then continued the passage to Darwin via North Peron Island where some peculiar structures made of 44 gallon drums were investigated. No satisfactory explanation could be reached as to why these structures existed but they were old and there was no evidence of recent human activity. The ship berthed in Darwin at 2240IK Thursday 22nd and remained alongside for the remainder of June undergoing maintenance.

Marine and Weapons, Electrical Engineering

6. Despite the number of defects, the majority of mechanical and electrical equipment worked well during the month. The most serious defect encountered during the month was with the 24 volt battery charger (URDEF 20/80) but that was repaired on Friday 30th. A defective SOLAS III survival radio (URDEF 19/80) was replaced during the AMP leaving no outstanding URDEFs at the end of the month. Two INDEFs on the AN/PRC F1 radio transceiver and one RM916 radar transceiver had not been rectified by 30 June as the necessary replacement items had not been received.

General

7. The health, welfare and conduct of the ship's company was very good during the month. Morale was also very good. The new element of the ship's company who joined in late May have settled in well and appear to be enjoying the patrol boat way of life.



(L. WALTON)
Lieutenant RAN
Commanding Officer

Annexes: A. Steaming details.
B. Drills, Evolutions and Exercises.

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

ANNEX A TO
HMAS ASSAIL LETTER 1/16/1
DATED 3 JULY, 1978

STEAMING DETAILS

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1. Distance steamed during the month | 4,026.9 miles |
| 2. Hours underway during the month | 309 hours
51 minutes |
| 3. Distance steamed since commissioning | 249,273.0 miles |
| 4. Hours underway since commissioning | 19,089 hours
35 minutes |
| 5. Occasions for exceeding fast routeing speed | : NIL |

RESTRICTED

ANNEX B TO
HMAS ASSAIL LETTER 1/16/1
DATED 3 JULY, 1978

DRILLS, EVOLUTIONS AND EXERCISES

FRI 02 JUN	ACTION, DEFENCE, EMERGENCY, LEAVING SHIP AND SHELTER STATIONS. OFFICER U/T CONDUCTED BLIND PILOTAGE FOR ANCHORAGE. MAJOR D.C. EXERCISE : BILGE FIRE IN ENGINE ROOM. STEERING GEAR BREAKDOWN EXERCISES. MAN OVERBOARD EXERCISES.
SAT 03 JUN	MAN OVERBOARD EXERCISES STEERING GEAR BREAKDOWN EXERCISES
SUN 04 JUN	9MM PISTOL AND F1 SMG FIRINGS.
MON 05 JUN	OFFICER U/T VISUAL PILOTAGE INTO DARWIN. HARBOUR FIRE EXERCISE.
THU 08 JUN	MAJOR D.C. EXERCISE : FLOODING CAUSED BY GROUNDING.
FRI 09 JUN	HARBOUR FIRE EXERCISE.
SAT 10 JUN	STARTED YACHT RACE WITH 40/60 BOFOR. TOWED STRANDED BOAT INTO HARBOUR.
SUN 11 JUN	HARBOUR FIRE EXERCISE.
MON 12 JUN	OOW MANOEUVRES BY FLAGS. TOWEX. 40/60 BOFOR AND .50 CAL MG SUFX.
SAT 17 JUN	HARBOUR FLOOD EXERCISE.
TUE 20 JUN	7.62MM SLR AND AR FIRINGS.
THU 22 JUN	HEAVING LINE TRANSFER WITH HMAS ARDENT.
FRI 23 JUN	HARBOUR FIRE EXERCISE.
SAT 24 JUN	HARBOUR FIRE EXERCISE.
SUN 25 JUN	HARBOUR FIRE EXERCISE.
MON 26 JUN	HARBOUR FIRE EXERCISE.
TUE 27 JUN	HARBOUR FIRE EXERCISE.
WED 28 JUN	HARBOUR FIRE EXERCISE.

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

1/16/1

HMAS ASSAIL
at DARWIN

5 August 1978

The Naval Officer Commanding
NORTH AUSTRALIA AREA

HMAS ASSAIL - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS - JULY 1978

Sir,

1. I have the honour to report the proceedings of HMAS ASSAIL under my command for the month of July 1978. The time zones used throughout this report are as indicated.
2. At the beginning of the month ASSAIL was alongside in Darwin undergoing an assisted maintenance period as well as preparing for Project Jindalee trials.
3. ASSAIL departed Darwin at 1000(1K) Thursday 6th to rendezvous with HMAS ARDENT and conduct a variety of exercises before proceeding west towards Derby where the Jindalee trials took place. The ship berthed at Derby at 1400(H) Sunday 9th to embark equipment and assist in preparing the wooden prawn trawler KATHERINE LEE which was also participating in the trials. During the evening ASSAIL moved to deeper water and commenced the fitting and calibration of equipment. This carried over to Monday afternoon when Mr Robert Garret of the Defence Research Establishment came onboard.
4. At 0001(H) Tuesday 11th ASSAIL departed King Sound and proceeded to the trials area about 50 miles north west of Cape Leveque. The KATHERINE LEE also headed for the trials area but, because of the strong tidal streams experienced at Sunday Strait and her slow speed, was not available until the following day. On Thursday evening ASSAIL returned to King Sound to replenish fuel from HMAS LABUAN whilst the prawn trawler proceeded to anchor at Cape Leveque. During the morning of Friday 14th the equipment fitted in KATHERINE LEE was removed thus completing her part in the trials. ASSAIL then spent the remainder of the day in the trials area.
5. The ship berthed at Derby at 0600(H) Saturday 15th to disembark equipment and refuel for the return passage to Darwin. ASSAIL anchored near Cascade Bay at midday to await instructions on whether or not to escort LABUAN to Darwin because of an unserviceable main engine. By 1900(H) ASSAIL was advised to return to base as LABUAN would be repaired in Derby. After an uneventful passage the ship berthed at the Patrol Boat Landing at 1300(1K) Monday 17th.
6. During the following week ASSAIL was engaged in preparations for Intermediate Docking at the RAN Slipway.

/At 0915 Wednesday

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

- 2 -

At 0915 Wednesday 19th you, Sir, accompanied FOCEA (Rear Admiral J. Davidson) onboard whilst he was conducting an inspection of facilities in Darwin. The ship was slipped at 0900(1K) Monday 24th where she remained until the end of the month.

Marine and Weapons Electrical Engineering

7. Prior to slipping, ASSAIL had not experienced any significant defects. However, on slipping it was obvious that the underwater paint system would require sand blasting because of extensive blistering (URDEF 22/80 refers). By the end of July the old paintwork had been removed and most of the new coats had been applied.

8. Another defect found during the ID was that all main engine starter motors had earths. (URDEF 23/80 refers). Repairs on this defect were nearing completion by the end of the month.

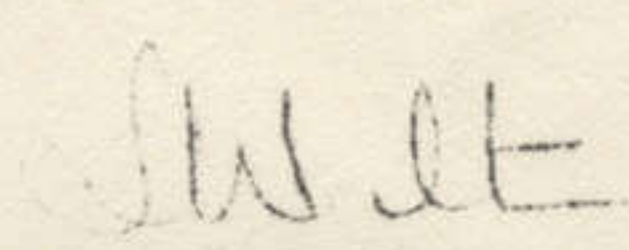
General

9. The health, welfare and conduct of the ship's company was good during the month. Morale was also good.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,


(L. WALTON)
Lieutenant RAN
Commanding Officer

Annexes: "A" - Steaming Details
"B" - Drills, Evolutions and Exercises

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

ANNEX "A" TO
HMAS ASSAIL LETTER 1/16/1
OF 5 AUGUST 1978

STEAMING DETAILS

1. Distance steamed during the month 2,271.4 miles
2. Hours underway during the month 181 hours 7 minutes
3. Distance steamed since commissioning 251,544.4 miles
4. Hours underway since commissioning 19,270 hours 42 minutes
5. Occasions for exceeding fast routeing speed:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speed</u>	<u>Duration</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Wed 12	20	1 hour	Jindalee trials
Sun 16	21.5	2½ hours	Quarterly Full Power Trial

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

ANNEX "B" TO
HMAS ASSAIL LETTER 1/16/1
OF 5 AUGUST 1978

DRILLS, EVOLUTIONS AND EXERCISES

SAT 01 JUL	Harbour Fire Exercise
SUN 02 JUL	Harbour Flood Exercise
MON 03 JUL	Harbour Fire Exercise
TUE 04 JUL	Harbour Flood Exercise
THU 06 JUL	Radar Calibration COW Manoeuvres conducted by XO Heaving Line Transfers
SAT 08 JUL	Blind Pilotage - Sunday Strait Private Small Arms Shoot
TUE 11 JUL	Blind Pilotage - Sunday Strait
THU 13 JUL	Fuelled from HMAS LABUAN
SAT 15 JUL	7.62mm SLR and AR Firings
SUN 16 JUL	Quarterly/Pre ID Full Power Trial
MON 17 JUL	Harbour Fire Exercise
TUE 18 JUL	Harbour Fire Exercise
WED 19 JUL	Harbour Fire Exercise
FRI 21 JUL	Harbour Fire Exercise
SAT 22 JUL	Harbour Fire Exercise
SUN 23 JUL	Harbour Fire Exercise

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

1/16/1

HMAS ASSAIL
at Darwin

1 September, 1978.

HMAS ASSAIL - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS - AUGUST, 1978

Sir,

1. I have the honour to report the proceedings of HMAS ASSAIL under my command for the month of August, 1978. The time used throughout this report is IK(-9½).
2. At the beginning of the month, ASSAIL was on the slip at the RAN Slipway undergoing an Intermediate Docking period. This remained the situation until Friday 4 when ASSAIL was unslipped and moved to the PBL to complete the I.D. work.
3. The ship departed Darwin at 0900 Monday 14 to commence a twelve day patrol period of the Beagle Gulf. The first day was occupied with gun functioning trials of the new 40/60 Bofor mounting received during the I.D. as well as exercising with HMAS ARDENT. After disembarking the trials team in Darwin that evening, ASSAIL returned to the patrol area.
4. The period until Sunday 20 was uneventful except for an overnight stop in Darwin on Thursday 17. During the early hours of Monday 21, ASSAIL was directed to proceed to the vicinity of Troughton Island and rendezvous with HMAS ADROIT which, because of an unserviceable starboard main engine, required escorting to Darwin. Both ships rendezvoused on Monday evening and commenced the return passage to Darwin which was reached the following afternoon.
5. On Wednesday 23, ASSAIL transported a party of RAAF personnel to Quail Island so that they could inspect the bombing range situated on that island. The ship returned that afternoon and stayed in harbour until 1630 the next day during which time the packing in both rudder glands was replaced.
6. At midday Friday 25, ASSAIL rendezvoused with HMA Ships ARDENT and AWARE in Shoal Bay to conduct pre-SQUADDEX exercises which included OOW manoeuvres, boardings and seamanship evolutions. These exercises continued until 1000 Saturday 26 when all three ships berthed at the PBL. The remainder of August was spent in preparing for the Annual Inspection and SQUADDEX.

/2 Marine and

RESTRICTED

Marine and Weapons Electrical Engineering

7. During the period up to 14 August, ASSAIL was undergoing I.D. All major work was satisfactorily completed except for the rudder post glands which leaked badly when the ship went to sea because the incorrect packing was used. The glands were repacked on Wednesday 23 and have functioned satisfactorily since. The only other serious problem during August was a defective 696 UHF transceiver, (URDEF 24/80) which has not been rectified due to the lack of a replacement. The remaining mechanical and electrical equipment performed well.

General

8. The health, welfare and conduct of the ship's company has been very good during the month. Morale was also good.

L. Walton
(L. WALTON)
Lieutenant RAN
Commanding Officer

Annexes: A. Steaming Details.
B. Drills, Evolutions and Exercises.

ANNEX A TO
HMAS ASSAIL LETTER
1/16/1 OF
1 SEPTEMBER, 1978.

STEAMING DETAILS

1. Distance steamed during the month: 1,835.3 miles
2. Hours underway during the month: 138 hours 40 minutes
3. Distance steamed since commissioning: 253,379.7 miles
4. Hours underway since commissioning: 19,409 hours 22 minutes
5. Occasions for exceeding fast routeing speed:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SPEED</u>	<u>DURATION</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
Wednesday 23	18.5	1 hour 20 minutes	M/E Governor Adjustment and Tests

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

HMAS ASSAIL LETTER
1/16/1 OF
1 SEPTEMBER, 1978

DRILLS, EVOLUTIONS AND EXERCISES

SAT 5	Harbour Fire Exercise
SUN 6	Harbour Fire Exercise
TUE 8	Harbour Fire Exercise
FRI 11	Harbour Fire Exercise
SAT 12	Harbour Fire Exercise
SUN 13	Harbour Fire Exercise
MON 14	Major D.C. Exercise
	Radar calibration
	OOW manoeuvres
	Heaving line transfers (conducted by XO and LEUT RLEX)
	40/60 Bofor Gun Functioning Trials
	40/60 Bofor and 2" Rocket Flare AAROFX
WED 16	LEUT RLEX Shiphandling
THU 17	LEUT RLEX Shiphandling
FRI 18	40/60 Bofor and .50 cal M.G. SUFX
WED 23	Small arms firing point and Immediate Action Drills instruction
FRI 25	OOW Manoeuvres
	BOARDEX
	Heaving line transfers
	Competitive Drills
	Formation Anchorage
SAT 26	OOW Emergency Drills
	OOW Manoeuvres
	Formation entry-Darwin
SUN 27	Harbour Flood Exercise
WED 30	Harbour Fire Exercise

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

1/16/1

HMAS ASSAIL
at DARWIN

22 September 1978

The Naval Officer Commanding
NORTH AUSTRALIA AREA

HMAS ASSAIL - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS

1 - 22 SEPTEMBER 1978

Sir,

1. I have the honour to report the proceedings of HMAS ASSAIL under my command for the period 1 - 22 September 1978. The time zone used throughout this report is India Kilo (-9½).

2. At the beginning of the period ASSAIL was berthed at the Patrol Boat Landing in Darwin completing the final preparations required for Annual Inspection and Squadex. The departmental inspections were conducted over Monday 4th and Tuesday 5th and on the following day you, Sir, carried out a harbour inspection and divisions. With the harbour phase of the inspection completed, ASSAIL sailed with the remainder of the Third Patrol Boat Squadron at 0345 Thursday 7th to conduct the Squadex in accordance with COMAUSMINPABFOR EXOPORD 13/78. After completing a comprehensive list of exercises, all ships returned to harbour on Friday afternoon.

3. During the forenoon of Saturday 9th ASSAIL completed a compass swing after which she commenced an FFV patrol of the North coast and western Gulf of Carpentaria. The first section of the patrol was conducted via Bathurst Island then along the coastline to Gove where the ship arrived at 1000 Tuesday 12th for fuel and an overnight stop. ASSAIL departed the following afternoon and set course for Groote Eylandt where the ship anchored for most of Thursday 14th because of rough seas caused by strong south easterly winds.

4. At 0330 Friday 15th ASSAIL weighed anchor and headed for Gove to fuel. This was completed by late afternoon after which the ship proceeded to Darwin arriving at 0930 Sunday 17th thus concluding an uneventful patrol. During the remainder of the period ASSAIL underwent a short maintenance period in preparation for the survey of the Geelvink Channel near Geraldton in company with HMAS MORESBY.

5. On Thursday 21st LEUT GLEX P.R. Corney RAN joined ASSAIL and, after handover, assumed command on Friday 22nd.

/Marine and Electrical

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

- 2 -

Marine and Electrical Engineering

6. During the period only minor problems were encountered with the mechanical and electrical equipment onboard. An URDEF (25/80) was raised on the starboard main engine pyrometer but that was replaced upon return to Darwin. One URDEF (24/80) on the 696 UHF transceiver and an INDEF (17/80) on a defective main engine glacial filter are outstanding because of the lack of replacements.

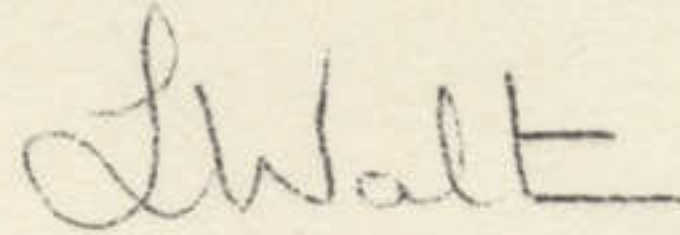
General

7. The health, welfare and conduct of the ship's company was very good during the month. Morale has remained high.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,



(L. WALTON)
Lieutenant RAN
Commanding Officer

Annexes: "A" - Steaming Details
"B" - Drills, Evolutions and Exercises

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

ANNEX "A" TO
HMAS ASSAIL LETTER 1/16/1
OF 22 SEPTEMBER 1978

STEAMING DETAILS

1. Distance steamed during the month 2048.4 miles
2. Hours underway during the month 155 hrs 38 mins
3. Distance steamed since commissioning 255,428.1 miles
4. Hours underway since commissioning 19,565 hours
5. Occasions for exceeding fast routeing speed:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speed</u>	<u>Duration</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Thu 7	17.5	1 hour	Squadex
	21	2 $\frac{1}{4}$ hours	Squadex
Fri 8	20	1 hour	Squadex

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

ANNEX "B" TO
HMAS ASSAIL LETTER 1/16/1
OF 22 SEPTEMBER 1978

DRILLS, EVOLUTIONS AND EXERCISES

WED 06	Harbour Flood Exercise
THU 07	Weighed anchor by deck tackle Blind Pilotage Departure from Darwin Man Overboard Exercise Two Minor NBCD Exercises Stationmaster Small Arms Firing - 7.62 mm SLR COW Manoeuvres 40/60 Bofor and 50 cal. AACRFX Towex 40/60 Bofor AAROFX Infiltrex
FRI 08	Towex 40/60 Bofor and 50 cal. AACRFX Damage Control Exercise Transfer Emergency Party by boat Formation Entry into Darwin
THU 14	Private Firearms Shoot
SUN 17	Harbour Fire Exercise
MON 18	Harbour Flood Exercise
THU 21	Harbour Fire Exercise

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

1/16/1

HMAS ASSAIL
at GERALDTON

2 October 1978

The Naval Officer Commanding
NORTH AUSTRALIA AREA

HMAS ASSAIL - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS - 23-30 SEPTEMBER 1978

Sir,

1. I have the honour to report the proceedings of HMAS ASSAIL under my command for the period 23 to 30 September 1978. All times are H(-8) unless otherwise indicated.

2. ASSAIL slipped from the Darwin wharf at 1100 (-9½) on Saturday 23rd and proceeded to the Geelvink Channel area near Geraldton in Western Australia for survey operations with HMA Ships MORESBY and ACUTE. At 2045(-9½) clocks were retarded 1½ hours to Time Zone Hotel (-8).

3. The ship berthed port side to the Broome wharf on Monday 25th for refuelling, slipped at 1900 and proceeded to Exmouth. ASSAIL berthed starboard side to the Point Murat Wharf, Exmouth, at 1330 on Wednesday 27th for refuelling, slipped at 1630 and proceeded to Geraldton.

4. The ship berthed port side to the Geraldton wharf at 0833 on Friday 29th for refuelling. ASSAIL slipped at 1220 and proceeded to rendezvous with MORESBY in the survey area. The ship secured port side to MORESBY at anchor north of the Houtman Albrolhos Islands. MORESBY's technical staff then coupled a spare Atlas Deso-10 echo sounder to the existing transducer on ASSAIL. The ship cast off at 1750 and commenced survey sounding with MORESBY at 1806. ACUTE joined at 0830 the following morning and soundings were completed by 1630 on Saturday 30th. ASSAIL detached and proceeded to Geraldton Harbour berthing starboard side to at 1746 where she stayed until the end of the month.

Marine and Weapons Electrical Engineering

5. ASSAIL has not experienced any significant defects.

General

6. The health, welfare and conduct of the ship's company was very good. Morale was also very good.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

X X
(P.R. CORNEY)
Lieutenant RAN
Commanding Officer

ANNEX A - Steaming Return
ANNEX B - Exercises

RESTRICTED

ANNEX "A" TO
HMAS ASSAIL LETTER 1/16/1
OF 2 OCTOBER 1978

STEAMING FIGURES

1. Distance steamed 23 - 30 September	2,018.0
2. Hours underway 23 - 30 September	157.98
3. Distance steamed since commissioning	257,580.1
4. Hours underway since commissioning	19,722 hrs 32 mins

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

ANNEX "B" TO
HMAS ASSAIL LETTER 1/16/1
OF 2 OCTOBER 1978

EXERCISES

A small arms shoot was carried out on Wednesday
27 September.

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

1/16/1

HMAS ASSAIL
at DARWIN

1 November 1978

The Naval Officer Commanding
NORTH AUSTRALIA AREA

HMAS ASSAIL - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS - OCTOBER 1978

Sir,

1. I have the honour to report the proceedings of HMAS ASSAIL under my command for the month of October 1978. The time zone used is H(-8) unless otherwise indicated.
2. At the beginning of the month ASSAIL was berthed starboard side to No. 3 wharf, Geraldton Harbour. HMAS MORESBY berthed starboard side to No. 2 berth at 0900. I and my Executive Officer attended a cocktail party hosted by MORESBY at 1830 and on Monday 2nd at 1100 MORESBY's Commanding Officer and I attended pre-lunch drinks at the Council Chambers with His Worship the Mayor, Mr Lyle Harris.
3. At 0845 on Thursday 5th ASSAIL cast off and proceeded to the survey area with MORESBY where survey operations were carried out until Saturday 14th with ASSAIL refuelling in Geraldton Harbour as necessary. Because of the limitations of weather and equipment on the ship it was decided to install a Hi-Fix receiver in ASSAIL in order that she could act independently of MORESBY. The installation was carried out on Saturday 14th with ASSAIL remaining alongside MORESBY until 0745 on Sunday 15th. The ship carried out independent sounding operations and completed the allocated area in the Zeewyk Channel at 1516 on Thursday the 19th and proceeded to Geraldton, berthing starboard side to No. 3 wharf at 1914. The speed of the survey operations was restricted to 13.5 knots because of the starboard engine gearbox losing oil pressure on Monday 16th.
4. At 0926 on Saturday 21st ASSAIL cast off and proceeded to the survey area and began sounding at 1232 in the Middle Channel area in the Houtman Albrolhos Islands. The survey operations were completed at 0539 on Monday 23rd and ASSAIL secured starboard side to MORESBY, at anchor, at 0745. The Hi-Fix receiver and Atlas Deso-10 echo sounder were then returned to MORESBY and the ship cast off at 0900 and proceeded to Geraldton, berthing starboard side to No. 1 berth at 1325.
5. ASSAIL cast off at 1859 on Tuesday 24th and proceeded to Exmouth, berthing starboard side to Point Murat jetty at 1001 on Thursday 26th. After refuelling, the ship sailed for Broome at 1300. ASSAIL secured starboard side to the inner Broome wharf at 0815 on Saturday 28th, refuelled and proceeded to Darwin at 1100.

/8. Clocks were

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

- 2 -

6. Clocks were advanced $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours at 2315 on Sunday 29th to 0045 IK ($-9\frac{1}{2}$). On the evening of Monday 30th ASSAIL altered course towards North Peron Island to investigate a yacht sighting. At 0314 ($-9\frac{1}{2}$) on Tuesday 31st two Taiwanese trawlers were identified as the FU YUAN CT6-0288 and the FU YUH CT6-0287. After boarding the FU YUAN, the catch was found to consist of only a few sharks. The position from the closest point of land was 316 Cape Scott 19.3 miles. The boarding of the trawler provided valuable experience for ASSAIL's crew as they had not previously carried out a boarding of a fishing trawler. The ship then proceeded to Darwin without further sightings, berthing starboard side to HMAS ADROIT at 1316 ($-9\frac{1}{2}$) in Darwin Harbour where she remained until the end of the month.

Marine and Electrical Engineering

7. There were a number of major and minor defects which affected the ship's operation during the month. Air was being drawn into the port main engine water cooling system on Saturday the 7th. This was temporarily repaired by ship's staff. (INDEF 18/80 refers). On Monday 16th the starboard main engine gearbox oil pressure fell below minimum operating pressure. This is still outstanding (URDEF 30/80 refers). The ship's steering arrangement appears to be drawing air or other impurities into the system which caused excessive effort to be put into steering the ship. (INDEF 20/80 refers). The ship's winch is suspect but should be repaired by ship's staff during the November AMP.

8. URDEF 28/80 was raised on the 10th for a fractured oil line on the 40/60 Bofor; this has been repaired by ship's staff. On the 10th the transceiver for the ship's radar was found to be out of order. The spare transceiver was fitted and found to be operating with only 50% efficiency and very shortly after became unserviceable. (URDEF 29/80 refers). The URDEF was rectified when the ship's staff repaired one transceiver and INDEF 19/80 was then raised on the remaining defective transceiver.

General

9. The health, welfare and conduct of the ship's company was very good during the month. Morale has remained very high.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

P. R. Corney
(P.R. CORNEY)
Lieutenant RAN
Commanding Officer

Annex "A" - Steaming Figures
Annex "B" - Drills, Evolutions and Exercises

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

ANNEX "A" TO
HMAS ASSAIL LETTER 1/16/1
OF 1 NOVEMBER 1978

STEAMING FIGURES

1. Distance steamed during the month	4,262.1
2. Hours underway during the month	321 hrs 29 mins
3. Distance steamed since commissioning	261,843.2
4. Hours underway since commissioning	20,044 hrs 1 min

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

ANNEX "B" TO
HMAS ASSAIL LETTER 1/16/1
OF 1 November 1978

DRILLS, EVOLUTIONS AND EXERCISES

SUN 01	Fire exercise in galley
MON 02	Fire exercise in Wardroom
TUE 03	Fire exercise in A/C compartment
WED 04	Fire exercise on the Forecastle Pistol shoot held at Geraldton firing range
MON 09	Fire exercise in Galley
THU 12	Fire exercise in A/C Compartment
FRI 13	Fire exercise in Wardroom
THU 19	Fire exercise on the Forecastle
SAT 28	Man overboard and OOW Manoeuvres
SUN 29	40/60 Surface Firing Exercise
TUE 31	Fire exercise in Wardroom

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

1/16/1

HMAS ASSAIL
at sea

1 December, 1978

Naval Officer Commanding
North Australia Area

HMAS ASSAIL - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS - NOVEMBER, 1978

Sir,

1. I have the honour to report the proceedings of HMAS ASSAIL under my command for the month of November, 1978. The time zone used is H(-8) unless otherwise indicated.
2. At the beginning of the month, ASSAIL was berthed starboard side to HMAS ADROIT at the Patrol Boat Landing (PBL), Darwin, carrying out an Assisted Maintenance Period (AMP). At 0940(-9½) on Thursday 2, the ship cast off and proceeded to the outer Darwin Harbour area to test the steering motor and starboard engine gearbox. On completion of the trials, ASSAIL berthed port side to the PBL at 1112(-9½).
3. On Thursday 16, ASSAIL held a family day which proved very popular with the eighteen family and friends who attended. The ship cast off at 1000(-9½), proceeded to Darwin outer harbour and carried out OOW manoeuvres and manoverboard exercises and came to anchor for lunch. After lunch, the ship weighed and returned to the PBL at 1411(-9½), disembarked all of the passengers and cast off and berthed port side to No. 1 Stokes Hill Wharf.
4. The Assisted Maintenance Period (AMP) was completed on Friday 17 and ASSAIL cast off at 0902(-9½), tested the steering gear in the quarantine area of the harbour and on completion, berthed port side to the No. 1 Stokes Hill Wharf at 1018(-9½). At 1500(-9½) on Saturday 18, the ship cast off and proceeded to Derby. Clocks were retarded 1½ hours at 2045(-9½) on Sunday 19 to time zone H(-0800).
5. The ship berthed starboard side to Derby Wharf at 1432 on Monday 20, refuelled and embarked the equipment for the Jindalee radar trials. The ship then cast off at 1710 and anchored near North Mary Island at 1722. ASSAIL weighed at 0703 on Tuesday 21 and carried out calibration trials on the Jindalee equipment, then berthed starboard side to the Derby Wharf at 1551. The Trials Officer, Alex Papij, from the Defence Research Establishment at Salisbury, was then embarked and the ship cast off at 1710 and proceeded to the trials area near Brue Reef.

/2 6. Jindalee trials

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

/2

6. Jindalee trials were then carried out until Thursday 30, with ASSAIL steaming on specific tracks and variable speeds during the working day. The ship anchored near Cape Leveque on completion of each days work and refuelled in Derby as required. At 1257 Thursday 30, ASSAIL berthed port side to the Derby Wharf, refuelled and off loaded the Jindalee equipment. The Trials Officer also disembarked and the ship cast off at 1755 and proceeded to Exmouth.

Marine and Electrical Engineering

7. URDEF 30/80 to the starboard main engine gearbox was repaired by ship's staff when faulty 'O' rings were replaced. The hydraulic steering was finally repaired on Friday 17 by Base Staff (INDEF 20/80). The flukes and tripping arm on the anchor were badly bent when anchoring near Cape Leveque, a new anchor for the ship is at HMAS STIRLING (INDEF 24/80). The ship's winch was repaired after obtaining a new clutch assembly from Stores.

8. The galley range isolating switch and associated wiring burnt out and were temporarily repaired, Stores have been received and expect to repair the items in HMAS STIRLING (INDEF 23/80). Two air conditioning unit motors burnt out and were replaced by Naval Stores, INDEF 22/80 was raised on the transceiver for the 916 radar and a new one was received through Naval Stores.

9. *here* The health, welfare and conduct of the Ship's Company was very good during the month. Morale was very high.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant

P. R. Corney

(P.R. CORNEY)
Lieutenant RAN
Commanding Officer

Annexes: A. Steaming Figures.
B. Drills, Evolutions and Exercises.

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

ANNEX A TO
HMAS ASSAIL LETTER
1/16/1 DATED
1 DECEMBER, 1978.

STEAMING FIGURES

1. Distance steamed during the month:	2,305.3
2. Hours underway during the month:	186 hrs 54 mins
3. Distance steamed since commissioning:	264,148.5
4. Hours underway since commissioning:	20,230 hrs 55 mins

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

ANNEX B TO HMAS
HMAS ASSAIL LETTER
1/16/1 DATED
1 DECEMBER, 1978

DRILLS, EVOLUTIONS AND EXERCISES

WED 01	Flood exercise in tiller flat
THU 02	Manoverboard and OOW manoeuvres Fire exercise on forcastle
FRI 03	Fire exercise on bridge
SAT 04	Fire exercise in galley
SUN 05	Flood exercise in tiller flat
MON 06	Flood Exercise in Engine room
TUE 07	Fire exercise in outboard motor stowage
WED 08	Fire exercise in 14 ft boot
SAT 11	Fire exercise in backbone assembly
MON 13	Fire exercise in A/C compartment
WED 15	Fire exercise in galley
THU 16	OOW and Manoverboard exercises
FRI 17	Fire exercise in engine room

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

1/16/1

HMAS ASSAIL
at DARWIN

1 January 1978

The Naval Officer Commanding
NORTH AUSTRALIA AREA

HMAS ASSAIL - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS - DECEMBER 1978

Sir,

1. I have the honour to report the proceedings of HMAS ASSAIL under my command for the month of December 1978. The time zone used is H(-8) unless otherwise indicated.
2. At the beginning of the month ASSAIL was on passage from Derby to Exmouth. At 1602 on Saturday 2nd the ship berthed starboard side to the Point Murat wharf, Exmouth, and refuelled.
3. The intention was to remain alongside overnight but the weather deteriorated and, after some damage occurred to the ship's side, my Executive Officer took the ship to sea at 0001 on Sunday 2nd (HMAS ASSAIL DDW 040630Z DEC 78 refers). At 0015 the ship came to anchor in 60 feet of water with 5 shackles on deck 5.5. cables 045 from the Point Murat wharf. The anchor began to drag and ASSAIL weighed at 0234 and steamed the remainder of the night. The ship berthed starboard side to the Point Murat wharf at 0855 and, after embarking the remainder of the crew, cast off at 0910 and proceeded to HMAS STIRLING.
4. On the passage south the weather gradually increased to force 7 and at 0546 on Monday 4th the anchor was discovered missing. There was minor flooding in all compartments except the after mess and the Executive Officer's cabin. At 0310 on Tuesday 5th water was found to be dripping over the switchboard. The switchboard was isolated and the ship reversed course so that a thorough investigation of the upper deck could be carried out. It was then found that the Bosun's store was completely full of water up to deck level and was seeping back through the ship. The store was pumped dry and the ship continued south to HMAS STIRLING, berthing port side to the patrol boat wharf at 1854. It was then found that the hatch cover to the Bosun's store was not sealing properly due to the rubber being too hard and brittle.
5. At 1052 on Wednesday 6th ASSAIL moved berth to the Escort Wharf to enable repairs to be carried out to water damaged equipment. The ship remained alongside until Tuesday 12th conducting an AMP and INO inspection on the 40/60 mounting. The base engineering staff at STIRLING assisted the ship to a great degree and displayed enthusiasm and a high standard of professionalism.

/6. ASSAIL fuelled

RESTRICTED

6. ASSAIL fuelled at 1520 and cast off at 1715. At 0155 on Thursday 14th two Taiwanese trawlers were sighted transitting 12.5 miles from the coast near Cape Ronsard (HMAS ASSAIL KBG 140223Z DEC 78 refers).

7. ASSAIL berthed starboard side to the Point Murat wharf at 1554 on Thursday 14th, refuelled and proceeded to Broome at 1805. The ship berthed starboard side to the Broome wharf at 0759 on Saturday 16th, refuelled and proceeded to Darwin at 1107. Clocks were advanced $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours at 2315 to time zone India Kilo ($-9\frac{1}{2}$).

8. The ship berthed port side to HMAS ARDENT at the Patrol Boat Landing at 1057 ($-9\frac{1}{2}$) on Monday 18th. At 0946 ($-9\frac{1}{2}$) on Tuesday 19th ASSAIL cast off and proceeded to the Beagle Gulf area. During the afternoon of Thursday 21st the port rudder gland began taking in an excessive amount of water and the ship returned to Darwin (HMAS ASSAIL DDW 210525Z DEC 78 refers) berthing port side to HMAS ADROIT at the Patrol Boat Landing. ASSAIL remained alongside for the remainder of the month.

Marine and Electrical Engineering

9. The major and minor defects were mainly caused by the bad weather and resultant flooding. The ship's side scuttle (URDEF 31/80) and the galley isolating switch (INDEF 23/80) were both repaired by STIRLING. The ship's windlass and associated electrical equipment had to be repaired because of the ingress of salt water. The oil line to the fresh water pump on the starboard main engine was replaced (URDEF 34/80) and the leaking port rudder gland was repaired by Darwin base staff (URDEF 35/80).

10. The defects still outstanding are the rectifier for the 40/60 Bofor which is awaiting stores action (URDEF 33/80) and the switch for the 10 inch signal lantern, also awaiting stores action (INDEF 25/80).

General

11. Lectures on security and the dangers of alcohol were given to the ship's company prior to the Christmas break.

12. The health, welfare and conduct of the ship's company was good during the month. Morale has remained high.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

P. R. Corney

(P.R. CORNEY)
Lieutenant RAN
Commanding Officer

Annex "A" - Steaming Figures
Annex "B" - Drills, Exercises and Evolutions

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

ANNEX "A" TO
HMAS ASSAIL LETTER 1/16/1
OF 1 JANUARY 1979

STEAMING FIGURES

- | | |
|---|--------------------|
| 1. Distance steamed during the month | 3,823.6 |
| 2. Hours underway during the month | 270 hrs 49 mins |
| 3. Distance steamed since commissioning | 267,972.1 |
| 4. Hours underway since commissioning | 20,501 hrs 44 mins |

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

ANNEX "B" TO
HMAS ASSAIL LETTER 1/16/1
OF 1 JANUARY 1979

DRILLS, EXERCISES AND EVOLUTIONS

SUN 10	Exercised fire - quarterdeck
WED 13	Small arms shoot
SUN 17	Small arms shoot
MON 18	Exercised fire - engine room
SAT 23	Exercised fire - engine room
MON 25	Exercised fire - galley
TUE 26	Exercised fire - petrol stowage
THU 28	Exercised fire - after mess
SAT 30	Exercised fire - bridge
SUN 31	Exercised fire - senior sailors' mess

RESTRICTED